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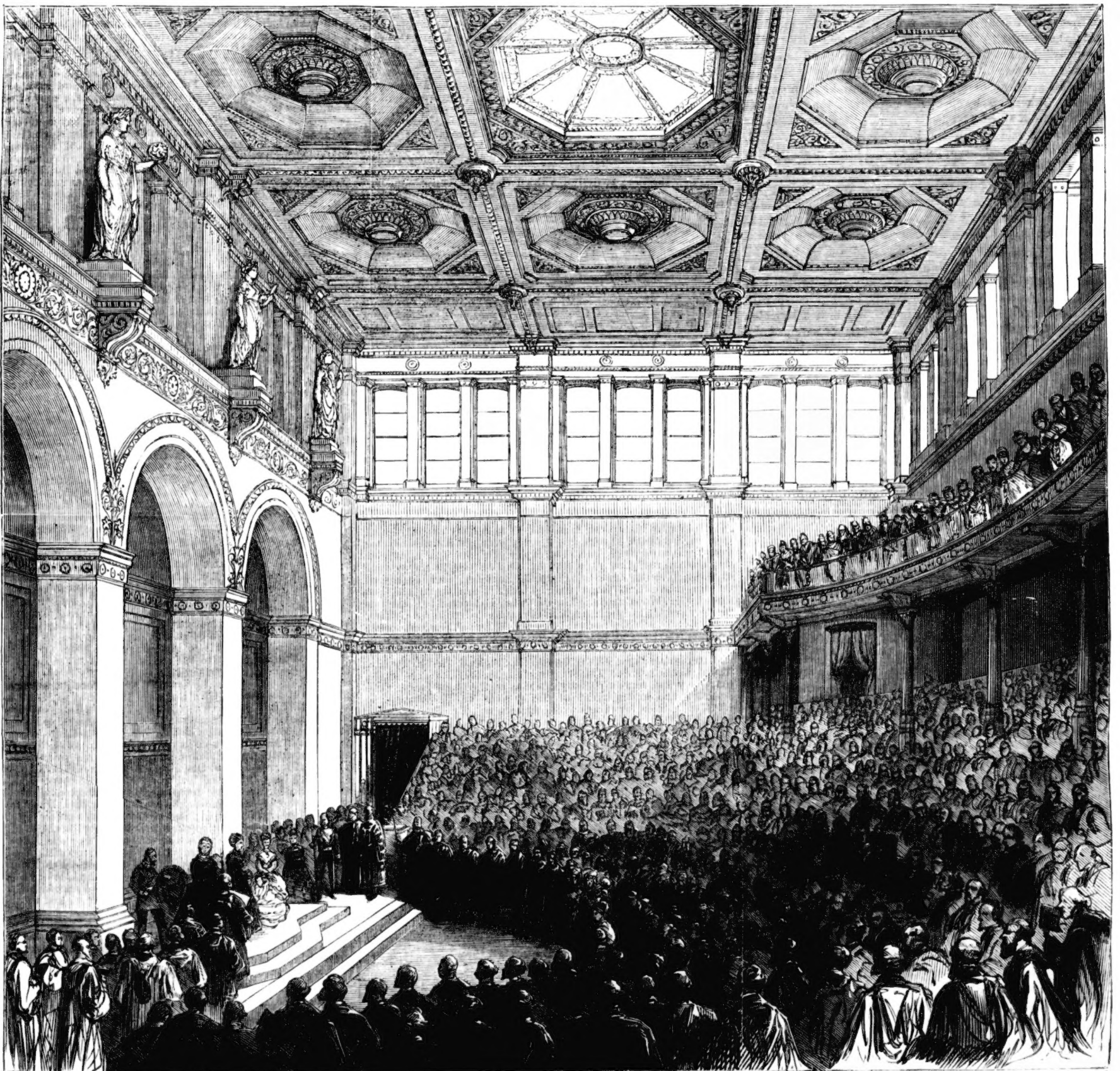
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"THE NAWAUB NAZIM OF BENGAL."

Do our readers know who is the Nawaub Nazim of Bengal, who is figuring so prominently before the public just now? or why that magnificent gentleman honours us with a visit just at present? Perhaps most people neither know nor care; and yet it is important that they should do both. For ignorance as to the Nawaub's history and position there may be some excuse. We are not all students of Macaulay, and many among us are tolerably innocent of a knowledge of the annals of India; and popular ignorance on these points may be something of a justification for popular indifference as to the Nawaub's motive for visiting England. But our Oriental guest has a history; and his reasons for

being here, and for keeping himself before the public eye, are significant. The Nawaub, his friends, or his agents, take care to make his presence felt. He puts in an appearance at all sorts of public gatherings; he subscribes to this fund and to that; newspaper editors are peppered—and pestered—with paragraphs touching his sayings, doings, and claims. Yes, "claims," for there lies the gist of the whole matter. The Nawaub has claims against the British Government, as all native Indian Princes have, or affect to have; and he is here to prosecute them. He is another Princely "victim of English injustice in India;" and he has come to seek redress. He is, therefore, no novelty. We have seen many specimens of that order of creation before. Princely victims of English injustice in

India, with claims to be satisfied, have been as plentiful for years and years as are fools in April, stones in Jersey, conspirators in France, or brigands (and abettors thereof) in Greece. And the curious thing about all these Indian Princely victims is that, wronged and ruined as they are by our injustice, they invariably come among us to seek redress for their grievances in most gorgeous array. They are rich; they spend their money freely; they live sumptuously; they dress magnificently; they are covered with jewels, and their garments are stiff with golden tissues interwoven therein. While we look at them, and admire their grandeur, remembering the while that they are wronged and ruined individuals, we cannot help wondering if all



THE QUEEN OPENING THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

injured persons in India are in like case to theirs; and are inclined to think that, if so, to be a "victim of English injustice in India" is no bad matter after all.

Like unto that of other native Indian Princely victims is the case of the Nawaub Nazim of Bengal; or, to give him his full title, Moontazm-ool-Moolk, Mohsen-ood-Dowlah, Fureedoon Jah, Syud Munsoor Ali Khan Bahadoor Nusrut Jung. He has been denuded of his principality; he has been defrauded of his pension; he has wrongs to be redressed and claims to be satisfied. At least, so he says, and so his friends (or agents) continually reiterate on his behalf. Let us look for a moment into the foundation of those claims and the nature of those wrongs, as well as into the means whereby they are to be satisfied and redressed, if that be done at all. Previous to Clive's conquest of Bengal there reigned in that province a certain Suraja-Dowlah, who was the soubahdur, or lieutenant, of the Mogul Emperors, against whom he rebelled, and made himself infamous in connection with the tragedy enacted in the "Black Hole of Calcutta." The representatives of the East India Company made war upon Suraja-Dowlah, who had for commander of his forces one Meer Jaffier Ali; this Meer Jaffier Ali agreed to betray his master and join Clive at the famous battle of Plassey, fought in 1757. This engagement he, however, failed to keep; and Clive won the battle without his aid. This double treachery, one would think, gave Meer Jaffier Ali small claim to consideration. Nevertheless, Clive overlooked the affair, and made him Nawaub of Bengal, *vice* Suraja-Dowlah, deposed. That was the beginning of the greatness of the family represented by the Nawaub Nazim now in our midst. Not a very creditable beginning, surely; but Indian notions on these matters are, as we all know, a little loose. In course of time the position of the Nawaubs of Bengal became inconvenient to the East India Company; and their sovereignty, or whatever was its nature, was abolished, and the family pensioned. The subsequent career of the family was not very reputable; but that's neither here nor there in Indian affairs. The gist of the matter now is, that the Nazim says his pension has not been fully paid; the compact made by his predecessors with "John Company" has not been faithfully adhered to; and he claims arrears to the amount of something like £1,000,000 sterling. Hence his presence here as a wronged individual suing for redress. True, he is, by his own statement, in the enjoyment of a pension of about £100,000 a year, besides some £6000 or £10,000 more paid to collateral branches of his family. Still, he is wronged; and he appeals to the "generous British people" for redress.

Now, it is proverbially easy to be generous at the expense of others; and if the British people admit the Nawaub's claims, that is what they will be doing. The Indian, not the English, exchequer will have to bear the cost; the Indian, not the British, taxpayer will have to contribute the needful funds. Now, we scarcely think this fair. To satisfy the so-called claims of one princely Indian victim millions of plebeian Indian toilers will have to be burdened with additional taxation, when they can scarcely bear that which they already endure. To right one wrong—if wronged the Nawaub be—many more wrongs must be perpetrated. Nor do the position the Nawaub's family have lost, or the services they have rendered to India or to us, warrant such a proceeding. We have seen what was their origin; their career may be read in the annals of India, if anyone care to seek it. They were our creatures; they owed their position to us; and what we gave we have surely a right to take away or to modify. And after all, starvation on £100,000 a year is no such terrible affair, even for an Oriental princeling.

We think the Nawaub had better let matters rest as they are, lest a worse fate befall him. The "generous British people" may chance to think that generosity—and, what is more, justice—indicate action in a direction opposite to what the Nawaub desires. At all events, as a contemporary well remarks, before we listen to any of the numerous claims from India on the part of the representatives of obsolete dynasties, it is well that we should bear in mind this fact, that already the Indian revenue is permanently charged with a sum of nearly two millions sterling, in the shape of pensions and allowances to innumerable families of discharged and effunct potentates, their children, relatives, and dependents in every degree. This charge is defrayed by the Indian taxpayers, who cannot be said to receive in return the smallest equivalent, and who certainly are not too well able to spare the benevolence. It is a fair question whether we have even any right to impose a perpetual burden of this kind upon the Indian people, and whether there is any principle of justice or of good policy in maintaining for ever in luxurious idleness the descendants of those whom we displaced—nearly all of whom were recent adventurers and conquerors like ourselves, and had no prescriptive rights to that power which they used so ill and to which we succeeded. We cannot doubt that, if the question was put to the Indian taxpayers themselves in the form of a plébiscite, they would almost unanimously repudiate these obligations, and put an end to the whole tribe of Royal pensionaries. And what right have we to be generous at the expense of the Indian people, contrary to their own feelings and wishes? Surely our first duty is to the mass of the Indian people. If we mean to open up the whole history of our transactions in India, with a view of restoring to the representative of every deposed Prince his rights, we should, in common justice, take the burden of the compensation upon ourselves, and not throw it on the very country which we are supposed to have wronged.

LONDON UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS.

As our readers know, the Queen last week opened in person the new buildings for the University of London in what are called Burlington-gardens. It is to be regretted that this fine structure does not front towards Piccadilly, instead of being hidden away in a narrow back street through which few people pass. Of course the building is not yet quite finished—no buildings on these occasions ever are; and even if an extra month were given we should probably have to say the same. Externally, however, it is complete. It is finely massed, and well studied in all its ornamental details, which include a liberal use of sculpture.

The essential function of the University of London is the conferring of academical degrees upon qualified candidates from all classes and denominations of her Majesty's subjects, without any distinction whatever, and for the proper discharge of this function it has long needed a suitable home. For many years, or, indeed, since its commencement in 1838, it has been sojourning in what may be described as furnished lodgings, and has been compelled to change these lodgings from time to time, under the pressure of various circumstances. An accidental result of this imperfect accommodation is that the University has been confounded by many persons with an institution that might be described as one of its colleges—University College, in Gower-street—and that it has never filled that place in the estimation of the general public that it has long and deservedly held in the estimation of men of science and letters. For the University of London is even now confessedly at the head of all the higher education of the empire that is not embraced by its elder sisters on the Isis and on the Cam, and its position is likely to be strengthened year by year. The number of candidates seeking to pass its various examinations has risen from twenty-three, in 1838, to 1436 in 1869; and, with a few trifling exceptions, the increase has been steadily progressive and without a check. It is honourably distinguished from the older Universities by the inflexible firmness with which its requirements of a very high order have been exacted from its graduates; and a percentage of rejections that would elsewhere have lowered this standard at the next examination has only rendered the authorities of the University of London more convinced of the propriety and necessity of maintaining it in all its integrity.

An institution not only distinctly national in its character, but doing work of which the nation may be justly proud, had an unquestionable claim to be provided with a home at the public cost; and the northern portion of the Burlington House site has long been allotted for the purpose. On this portion, which has a frontage of 256 ft. to Burlington-gardens, and a depth of 148 ft., Mr. Pennethorne, the architect to the Board of Works, was instructed to erect a building. The Senate of the University were authorised to explain to Mr. Pennethorne the nature of their requirements with regard to internal space and arrangements, but they were not allowed to have a voice in the important question of the elevation. Mr. Pennethorne's original design was classical in character; and, having been approved by Mr. Cowper, the then First Commissioner, all things were in train for its erection, when the Earl of Derby came into power, and the control of the Board of Works passed into the hands of Lord John Manners, who wished to substitute a mediæval elevation for the classical one. Mr. Pennethorne accordingly prepared a mediæval design, which was accepted, and actually put in hand. Not only were the foundations laid, but they had actually received something like 10 ft. of superstructure, when the decision of Lord John Manners was reversed by the House of Commons, which refused to vote money for the continuance of the work. Mr. Pennethorne was then called upon, at very short notice, to design a third elevation, of more modern character, and in harmony with the architecture of Burlington House itself. The design was to be placed in the library of the House before the vote was again brought forward. To this call Mr. Pennethorne responded by the present Italian elevation, in a way that will be fortunate for his fame; and the hastily-prepared design was not only at once accepted by the House of Commons, but it has since received a gratifying and almost unanimous tribute of admiration, as well from the public and from amateurs as from the stricter judgment of professional criticism. The combination of sculpture with architecture, which serves to denote the character of the building, is not more striking than the union of simplicity and richness that is manifest in all its parts.

As regards ground plan, the building consists of two oblong blocks, the smaller and shorter of which is placed behind or to the south of the principal one. The front presents a central portion about 120 ft. in length, flanked by two square towers, and extended further east and west by wings, that appear externally to be two stories in height and that are about 65 ft. in length. The towers carry a clock and a wind dial, and between them is a projecting portico with five entrances. The portico, the centre, and the wings are all surmounted by balustrade; and on the pedestals of these balustrades are placed statues of eminent men, selected as fitting illustrations of the various forms of academic culture. The statues over the portico are seated, those on the roof line are standing; and there are also standing figures in niches on the ground floor of each wing. The principal figures are those on the balustrade of the portico. These are by Mr. Durham; and, taking them in their order from east to west, they are statues of Newton, Bentham, Milton, and Harvey, as representatives of the four faculties—science, law, arts, and medicine. The figures on the central roof line represent ancient culture, in the persons of Galen, Cicero, Aristotle, Plato, Archimedes, and Justinian. Of these the first three are by Mr. Westmacott, the last three by Mr. Woodington. The east wing is devoted to illustrious foreigners. To the roof line Mr. Wyon has contributed Galileo, Goethe, and Laplace; to the niches Mr. McDowall has contributed Leibnitz, Cuvier, and Linnaeus. The west wing is adorned with English worthies—Hunter, Hume, and Davy—by Mr. Noble, on the balustrade; and Adam Smith, Locke, and Bacon, by Mr. Theed, in the niches. The effect of these statues is, on the whole, extremely fine, more especially of those on the balustrades. The selection and arrangement of the persons to be represented afforded matter for much consideration to the Senate; and, although their selection has been confirmed by the Board of Works, the suggested order of arrangement has been in some instances modified. An opinion was advanced that Shakespeare should occupy the place that is now filled by Milton, but against this view it was justly urged that the genius of Shakespeare was independent of academic influence. To him will be assigned, however, a distinguished place in the interior of the building, and, as a temporary arrangement only, a cast of the Westminster Abbey statue will be placed in a niche facing the first flight of the grand staircase.

Opposite to the centre of the portico is the principal entrance, and immediately within this entrance are rooms on the right and left, lighted by windows looking into the portico. One of these rooms will be fitted as a waiting-room, another as a museum of typical specimens, and the rest will be for the accommodation of clerks and messengers. Passing between doors leading to these rooms, the visitor reaches a fine corridor running east and west, and, crossing this corridor, arrives at the foot of the principal staircase. On the right or western side, the corridor leads to the great library or examination-hall, a room 72 ft. by 53 ft., which occupies the whole of the corresponding wing. On the left or eastern side, the corridor leads to the theatre or lecture-hall, which occupies the whole of the eastern wing, and is capable of seating 800 persons. It is fitted to have a width of 2 ft. 5 in. between the seats, so that visitors will have no difficulty in moving past others to their places. As originally planned, the dais was at the side of the theatre, next the corridor; and the entrance for the audience was at the opposite side, the seats of the auditorium ascending from the corridor level. This arrangement has now been reversed, and the seats descend from the corridor level towards a dais on the eastern side. The public entrance is now from the corridor, and the official entrance to the dais is by a passage leading from

the eastern smaller examination hall. Among other benefits resulting from the change will be a gain of 180 seats in a gallery accessible from the first floor of the central building. The theatre has been carefully planned with regard to its acoustic properties; and it is said to be the intention of the Senate to render it available for various public purposes, and, among others, for the meetings of the Royal Geographical Society. At each end of the corridor is a transverse passage, and these passages give access to the smaller examination halls, which are situated behind the main building, at the extremities of the southern or secondary block, and are separated by private rooms for the use of the examiners. The eastern smaller hall has been already mentioned as in relation with the dais or the theatre, and it will therefore serve as a place of assembly for official persons on public occasions. The principal staircase is contained within a hall devoted to it, 33 ft. square, and rising to a lantern story of arches and two light windows surrounded by an ornamental skylight. A central flight of steps lead to a first landing, from which secondary flights spring right and left to second landings, and from these the terminal flights ascend to the main landing of the first floor. On the second landings are two entrances to the smaller library, which is intended to be a reading-room or common-room for the general use of graduates; and between these entrances is the niche in which the statue of Shakespeare will for a time be placed. The stairs themselves are of fine proportions, and they have richly-carved marble balusters, surmounted by a dark-coloured polished marble handrail. The floor of the main landing is of polished marble, inlaid in various colours. This landing gives access in the centre to a very handsome senate-room, 43 ft. by 27 ft., and 26 ft. 5 in. high. On each side of it are smaller rooms for committees, and for the registrar and assistant registrar of the University. At the extremities are entrances to the respective galleries of the great hall and of the theatre; and transverse passages, corresponding to those below, give access to the first floor of the southern block. This first floor is occupied by two examination-halls, placed over the smaller halls of the ground floor, and fitted up especially for the conduct of practical examinations in chemistry and in anatomy.

In point of decoration, the building may be described as an example of a refined or enriched style of Palladian or Italian architecture. The decorations are elaborate in style and abundant in quantity, and are remarkable for a general character of flatness that is almost without parallel in any other important structure of the Victorian age. The effect of this flatness is distinctly to subordinate ornamentation to main outlines of form, and to preserve the latter as the most striking features that are presented to a spectator.

THE PEACE SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening the fifty-fourth anniversary of this society was held in Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields—Mr. J. W. Pease, M.P., taking the chair. There was a large attendance of the members and friends of the society. Among those present were Mr. A. Hingworth, M.P.; Mr. H. Richard, M.P. (honorary secretary); the Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, the Rev. H. S. Brown, Mr. Elihu Burritt, and a deputation from the French League of Peace—M. F. Passy and M. Martin Paschoud. Mr. Richard said, as the report had already been printed by the committee, a copy of which would soon be in the hands of the members of the society, he would not trouble the meeting by reading it in extenso, but would confine himself to a few remarks on the results of the mission on the Continent, which he, during last autumn, undertook at the special request of the committee. He visited several of the leading capitals of Europe, including Paris, Brussels, the Hague, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Florence, with the view to confer with members of the various Legislatures of Europe as to the expediency of bringing forward in those assemblies a proposal in favour of mutual and simultaneous disarmament. The suggestion was received with great favour; and since then a motion for European disarmament had been introduced in the Representative Chambers of Prussia, Saxony, and Austria; while the question had, in other forms, been brought before the Assemblies of Belgium, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg. A similar motion would have been submitted to the French Legislative Body but for the peculiar political circumstances through which France had been passing during the last six months. It had been intimated that during the present Session the question would be brought before the British Parliament by a much-respected member of the House. The Paris Peace Society had met with great success, and a marked change in favour of peace, and against war, had come over the popular mind in France, and, indeed, throughout the continent of Europe. The chairman thought the meeting would be of opinion that the society had not been idle during the past year. There were signs of the times in which they lived calculated to make them place confidence in the course they were pursuing. Looking at the conduct of the great nation on the other side of the Atlantic, considering how deeply they had felt the losses sustained by the action of the Alabama—there was something remarkable in the fact that they had almost forgotten the grudge they owed to this country; and if they still regretted they had not gained their own way about it, they were at least silent on the subject, and had, therefore, set a most glorious example to other nations. The declaration made in the Queen's Speech was of vast importance, it being the declaration of the strongest Ministry the country ever possessed. It showed that there was an anxiety and a readiness to keep down war in Europe. They had come to another phase of this question, and that was the policy which had recently been adopted in this country in withholding troops from the English colonies. Another argument favourable to the cause of peace was to be found in what Sir William Armstrong had recently said in a lecture given at Huddersfield, in which he observed that, if inventions in the art of manufacturing arms had been great, inventions in the arts of peace had been equally strong, and that the tendency of mechanical invention was to discourage aggression and promote peace. With reference to the pecuniary loss sustained by war, the hon. chairman said that in 1854 the cost of the Army and Navy was £16,325,000. The Crimean War increased that sum to £27,635,000; while in 1870 it had only diminished to £24,000,000; and in 1871 the charge was still £22,000,000, being £6,000,000 more than in 1854. Although, therefore, they ought to be thankful to the Government for having saved five millions since the Crimean War, still there were eight millions before them which it would be wise and politic for them to take away. Then, with regard to the loss of life occasioned by war, from 1853 to 1866 wars had caused a sacrifice of 1,750,000 lives. These were the facts which the Peace Society was endeavouring to bring before the world. The Rev. H. S. Brown then addressed the meeting, and moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting rejoiced to know that a strong conviction of the folly, iniquity, and unchristian character of war was spreading widely among the population of Europe, and earnestly invoked the aid of all instructors of youth, conductors of the public press, and ministers of religion to extend and deepen so salutary a sentiment. The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously. A second resolution, to the effect that the meeting viewed with deep interest and satisfaction the motions that had lately been made in several European Legislatures in favour of a system of international disarmament, and earnestly hoped that before the close of the present Session the subject would be brought forward in the British Parliament, was also adopted; and, the meeting having been addressed by several other speakers, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—The famous picture of John Bellini, representing "The Death of St. Peter Martyr," which excited so much admiration at the recent Exhibition of Old Masters, has just been presented to the nation. This noble work of art is the munificent gift of Lady Eastlake. It may be remembered that on a former occasion she presented the National Gallery with a most valuable and interesting picture, by Pisano, of Verona. This continued generosity will serve to associate the name of Eastlake still more closely with the rise and progress of our fine national collection of pictures.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Imperial decrees were published on Monday containing the following nominations:—Duke de Gramont, Minister for Foreign Affairs; M. Mége, Minister of Public Instruction; M. Plichon, Minister of Public Works. Other Imperial decrees follow, removing the administration of the horse-breeding establishments from under the Ministry of Fine Arts to that of Agriculture, and ordering that the holder of the former office should henceforth bear the title—Minister of Literature, Science, and Art, and also that his department should include the superintendence of the Institut de France, Académie des Sciences, the libraries, learned societies, and others.

Official accounts are also published of the expedition of General Wimpffen against the insurgent tribes on the frontier of Morocco. It is stated therein that the enemy had been beaten three times, on April 15, 24, and 25, and that the loss on the French side in the two latter encounters amounted to 16 killed and 130 wounded, the loss in the first engagement not being as yet exactly ascertained. The reports state that these successes of General Wimpffen will ensure the maintenance of peace on the Morocco frontier.

The Chamber met on Wednesday, and the President formally announced that the French people had approved the plebiscite. Loud cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" are reported to have followed, and M. Jules Simon, who attempted to speak, was met by so much interruption that he had to desist. The official result of the voting is to be communicated to the Emperor to-day (Saturday), and a speech from his Majesty is expected.

The *Marseillaise* was on Tuesday suspended for two months. The editor was at the same time sentenced to three months' imprisonment and 5000*f.* fine, and the manager to a year's imprisonment and 10,000*f.* fine. On Wednesday the editor and manager of the *Reveil* and the editor of the *Rappel* were each sentenced to three months' imprisonment and 1000*f.* fine.

Last Saturday upwards of one hundred persons, arrested during the late disturbances, were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Most of the prisoners declared that they had taken no part in the disturbances, but were simply in the streets on their way home when seized by the police. Their statements were not credited. The trials still continue. Five persons were arrested on Wednesday, charged with being implicated in the conspiracy. Bombs were found at the lodgings of the prisoners, who made complete avowals.

According to the *Français*, the deserter Beauzy, recently arrested in connection with the alleged conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Napoleon, has energetically disavowed any connection with Gustave Flourens.

The inauguration of a statue of Ponsard, the dramatist, took place, on Sunday, at his native town of Vienne, on the Rhone. Prince Napoleon, whose presence had been announced, disappointed the visitors and still more the natives. The fête brought strangers enough to fill all the hotels in the town to overflowing. M. Emile Augier was the principal speaker at the banquet, which was attended by a great many Paris dramatists and journalists. In the evening scenes from Ponsard's principal plays—"Charlotte Corday," "Horace and Lydie," and "Lucrèce"—were performed, some of the characters being taken by the actors who had originally represented them at the Théâtre Français.

SPAIN.

Senor Madoz, the bearer of a letter from Marshal Prim to Marshal Espartero stating that an important fraction of the Cortes wished to elect him as King, and asking for a statement of his views, has returned from Logrono with a letter from Espartero declining to accept the proffered dignity on account of his age. The reply has caused much disappointment in political circles.

Marshal Prim had a long interview with the members of the majority of the Cortes on Tuesday, to whom he explained the present state of the candidature question, and, in conclusion, pointed out the necessity of conferring upon the Regent Serrano the attributes of Royal authority. It is rumoured that some of the Progressist party, previous to their giving their support to the arrangement referred to, intend to propose a vote in the Cortes excluding the two branches of the Bourbon dynasty from the Spanish throne. Another rumour asserts that Marshal Espartero's refusal is not final, but that he would accept the crown if elected by the Cortes.

The members of the majority in the Cortes are about, it is said, to reorganise themselves as the "Progressist-Democrat" party.

ITALY.

The insurrectionary movement at Catanzaro appears not to have been an isolated incident, but has been followed by other attempts in different parts of Italy. The Government, however, appears to be aware of, as well as prepared against, the plot; and, as the insurrectionary bands meet with no support from the people, they will, it is expected, be easily dispersed. The telegrams say that order has been restored in the province of Catanzaro, but the University of Naples has been closed in consequence of renewed disturbances, and a number of arrests have been made. During the disturbances three bombs were thrown and exploded in the courtyard, and one student fired a revolver.

Advices from Sardinia state that a band of assassins murdered a whole family on the 12th inst.

ROME.

The General Congregation of the Oecumenical Council, on Saturday, commenced the discussion on the primacy and infallibility of the Pope. It is believed the discussion will be completed within a month, and the Ultramontane party are said to be in high spirits at the prospect of carrying their favourite dogma. Many Fathers sitting in the centre of the Council have asked for leave of absence. About one hundred Fathers have inscribed their names to oppose more or less radically the proposed dogmatic definition.

SWITZERLAND.

In consequence of the insurrectionary movements in Italy the Federal Council has requested the Government of the Tessin Canton to confine in the interior Italian refugees who are now on the frontier.

GERMANY.

The North German Parliament discussed, on Tuesday, the proposals which have been brought forward with a view to restrict the issue of lottery loans. Herr Camphausen, the Minister of Finance, out of regard for Bavaria, Baden, Austria, and Russia, expressed himself opposed to giving to the proposed prohibition of these loans a retrospective character. He recommended that the bill on this subject should be first considered in committee, but the House decided to proceed with the second reading at the full sitting of the House. The postal treaties with England and America were read the third time and adopted.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

A decree of Prince Charles has been promulgated, ordering the elections for the Chamber of Deputies to be held from June 6 to June 12, and those for the Senate from June 14 to June 18. The Government promises that there shall be complete freedom of election. The new Cabinet has published its programme, in which it takes for its motto the words "Morality, Legality."

GREECE.

The French Minister at Athens has notified to the Greek Government that, should French subjects be seized by brigands, the Government itself would be called upon to pay whatever ransom might be demanded.

The most notorious brigands in Acarnania and Lepanto, including the notorious chief Deghis, who captured Lord Hervey in 1867, are said to have been killed, and the remaining bands are seeking to escape to Italy, Turkey, and Wallachia. Western Greece is freed from brigandage.

MADEIRA.

Some serious riots have occurred in Madeira, which are said to have originated as follows:—On the 3rd and 4th of this month the elections were proceeding by ballot in the island, the boxes containing the voting papers being generally kept in the churches. Ill-feeling having sprung up between the Liberals and the Clerical party, the Liberals were determined to vote against the priests, the latter being equally determined, should a generally adverse result appear likely, to tamper with the voting-papers. This coming to the ears of the people, persons were appointed to watch the ballot-boxes in the churches; but on these entering the buildings, and asking to be informed as to the state of the voting, they met with a refusal, and were ordered to leave. They insisted on remaining, and an attempt, in which it is said the military took part, was made to expel them. The result was that several of the people were shot dead and a large number seriously wounded.

THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives has appropriated 325,000*dols.* for the first annual instalment of the sum of 650,000*dols.* due to the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Representatives has agreed to report a bill reducing the revenue from internal taxes by 30,000,000*dols.* The new bill relieves railroads from the tax hitherto levied on their gross receipts. A Committee of the Senate has reported against the proposed grant of a pension to Mrs. Lincoln, the reasons adduced being that Mrs. Lincoln has sufficient to live on without a pension, and that it has not been the practice of the United States to pension civil servants, which the Committee hold Mr. Lincoln to have been.

The New York elections took place on Tuesday. The Democrats carried the State by about 60,000 majority on a light vote. A court of appeal of seven Judges was chosen, consisting of five Democrats and two Republicans. The Chief Justice was Sanford E. Church, a Democrat. The Tammany Democrats have elected almost every official in New York city.

Public meetings have been held in New York and in other cities to express indignation against the Spanish authorities in Cuba for the summary execution of General Goicouria. Resolutions were adopted memorialising Congress to protest against further barbarity. It is rumoured that the Fenians are assembling near St. Paul for the purpose of invading the Red River Territory. A terrible conflagration has occurred in the mountain forests of Madison and Sullivan counties, in the State of New York. The loss is estimated at 5,000,000*dols.*

CUBA.

An official telegram from Cuba, received at Madrid, announces a Spanish victory over the rebels in the central department of the island. The insurgents lost 150 men killed and many wounded, and three guns and some ammunition were captured.

General Rodas is reported to have revoked the order requiring persons going to the United States to give a bond of 5000*dols.* not to enter into any conspiracy against the Spanish Government.

CANADA.

The Dominion Parliament was prorogued on the 12th inst. The Governor-General, in his speech on the occasion, referred to the Banking, Tariff, Providence, Manitoba, and Census Bills as the principal measures of the Session. He congratulated the Parliament on the liberal terms of the Manitoba Bill, and said that the military expedition would gratify all loyally-disposed persons and give confidence to the Red River settlers and the Indian tribes, so that they would feel able to rely upon the impartial protection of the British Government. He also declared that the prompt measures which had been taken had prevented a Fenian invasion.

The Americans have stopped the steamer *Chicora*, conveying stores and boats for the Red River expedition, from passing through the St. Marie Canal. The *Chicora* landed her freight on Canadian shores. It will be conveyed over the portage to the steamer *Algoma*, already lying in Lake Superior. Troops will follow the same route, a road having been constructed over the portage. The distance is trifling. The *Chicora* left Collingwood last Saturday with one hundred soldiers and a full cargo of stores for the Winnipeg expedition, also with horses to carry round the Falls the cargo discharged on the Canadian shore, to be reshipped on Lake Superior.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Newfoundland House of Commons was prorogued, on Wednesday, by Governor Hill, who in his speech on the occasion expressed regret that Newfoundland had not accepted the conditions for admission into the Dominion. He reminded the disaffected that the home Government warmly approved confederation.

INDIA.

Distress prevails in many districts of Upper Burma, in consequence of a partial failure of the rice crop.

The report of the geological survey of British Burma announces the discovery of petroleum near Thayetmye.

It is believed that a political agent will be again placed at Ulwar, in consequence of disturbances between the Maharajah and the Thakours.

AUSTRALASIA.

The Macpherson Ministry at Melbourne has resigned, and Mr. Macculloch has formed a new Cabinet, all the members of which have been re-elected.

Advices from New Zealand announce that Te Kooti has been routed by the friendly natives, who killed nineteen and made 300 prisoners. The war is supposed to be over.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTERS.

The successors of MM. Daru, Buffet, and Talhouet are not so well known in the world of French politics as to render unnecessary a slight sketch of their history and party positions. The Duc de Gramont, now Minister of Foreign Affairs, was born in Paris in 1819. After being educated at the Ecole Polytechnique he was appointed a Sous-Lieutenant at the Practical School of Metz. He resigned his commission in 1840, and remained in private life until the Deux Décembre of 1851. After the accession of the Emperor Napoleon III. he was successively appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Cassel, Stuttgart, and Turin, and subsequently Ambassador at Rome. He supported Count Cavour in his successful attempt to induce the Sardinian Government to join the alliance of the Western Powers against Russia. In 1861 he was appointed Ambassador at the Austrian Court. The Duc de Gramont is *Conseiller-Général* for the Canton of Bidache, in the department of Basses Pyrénées, and married, in 1848, Miss Mackinnon, by whom he has four children.

M. Mége, the new Minister of Public Instruction, is a native of Riom, and was also born in 1819. He devoted himself to the profession of the law, and his career was unmarked by any striking feature until 1862, when he became *batonnier* or head of the local bar at Clermont Ferrand. Soon afterwards he was appointed *Maire* of Clermont; and in 1863 he was elected to the Corps Législatif under the auspices of the Government of the day, M. Rouher being a friend and fellow-townsmen. Up to 1869 he was one of the most active members of the Conservative majority. After his re-election in 1869 M. Mége joined the new Liberal *Tiers Parti*, and was one of the 116 who signed the once famous demand of interpellation. A Vice-President of the Corps Législatif, his name was mentioned on a former occasion in connection with the department over which he is now called to preside; but M. Ségris then obtained the nomination.

M. Plichon, the new Minister of Public Works, who was born in 1814, is an advocate. He was a deputy under the July Monarchy, and in 1857 was returned to the Corps Législatif as representative of the Department du Nord. He was re-elected in 1863, and again in 1869, this time in the character of an Opposition candidate. He also was one of the 116 signers of the demand for interpellation.

It thus appears that one of the new Ministers belongs avowedly to no political faction, another is taken from the Right Centre, and the third was a member of the Left Centre. The journals representing the moderate Liberal opinions do not appear to be very highly satisfied with these appointments, and regard them only as fresh additions to what must be a transitional Ministry.

THE MASSACRE IN GREECE.

FURTHER correspondence respecting the tragedy in Greece is now published. It consists of various despatches exchanged between Lord Clarendon and Mr. Erskine, a letter from Lord Muncester to Lord Clarendon, and several inclosures. In a despatch dated April 28 Lord Clarendon declares that everybody who was in league with the band, whether by giving it information or by urging it to insist on impossible conditions, ought to be brought to trial; and he adds that it is a scandal to civilisation, and an offence to the Powers that called Greece into existence, that, after the lapse of forty years, such things should occur. Lord Muncester, in his letter, states that he and his fellow-tourists knew nothing of any other escort than the four mounted gendarmes by which they were accompanied. He had not the slightest idea that the foot soldiers seen on the road had been sent as an escort, or that any request had been made for the carriages to go slower in order that the men might keep up with them. Four of the captured brigands had been examined in the presence of Mr. Erskine and the Italian Minister, and reports of the investigation are included among the papers. The written instructions given by the Greek Government to its envoy, Lieutenant-Colonel Théagénis, are also included. According to these instructions the brigands were to be warned that they would be treated with the utmost rigour if they in any way ill-treated their captives. They were, moreover, to be told that if they quitted Oropos the Government would consider itself released from the engagement the English and Italian Ministers had made to suspend all pursuit. In a despatch dated the 5th inst. Mr. Erskine says he considers that the collision between the troops and the brigands was provoked, if not commenced, by the former attempting to prevent the escape of the latter to a part of the country where they "might have held out for any conditions they thought fit to impose." "From this statement, I infer," he adds, "that if Alexander (the dragoman) had been in earnest, and had hastened to join the brigands, they might possibly have been induced to retrace their steps to Sykamenon, and to believe in the assurances of Lieutenant-Colonel Théagénis that the terms originally offered were still open to their acceptance." Lieutenant-Colonel Théagénis, in a fuller report than he at first drew up, says that, had time permitted, Oropos would have been completely invested, and that, in that case, the deliverance of the captives would not have been doubtful. The brigands, however, took to flight, and then, in accordance with the orders of the Government, the soldiers pursued them.

Among these papers is a statement made by Louis Gleissner, a German courier, who accompanied Lord and Lady Muncester and Mr. Vyner on their journey in Greece. Gleissner was not with them when they were captured; but he afterwards visited the prisoners, and offered to remain in the place of Mr. Vyner. This, however, Mr. Vyner would not hear of; and, accordingly, the proposition was not made to the brigands. Gleissner states that the prisoners complained of the incorrect manner in which the dragoman, Alexander, translated the remarks of the chief. He also mentions an observation made to him by Lieutenant-Colonel Théagénis, expressing mistrust of Alexander. In the last letter Mr. Vyner wrote he implores, as a dying man, that the request of the brigands for a formal trial followed by a pardon may be granted, otherwise "we must die in a day or two," he says, "besides the needless bloodshed that would ensue." "These men are desperate," he adds in a postscript, "no pressure will avail."

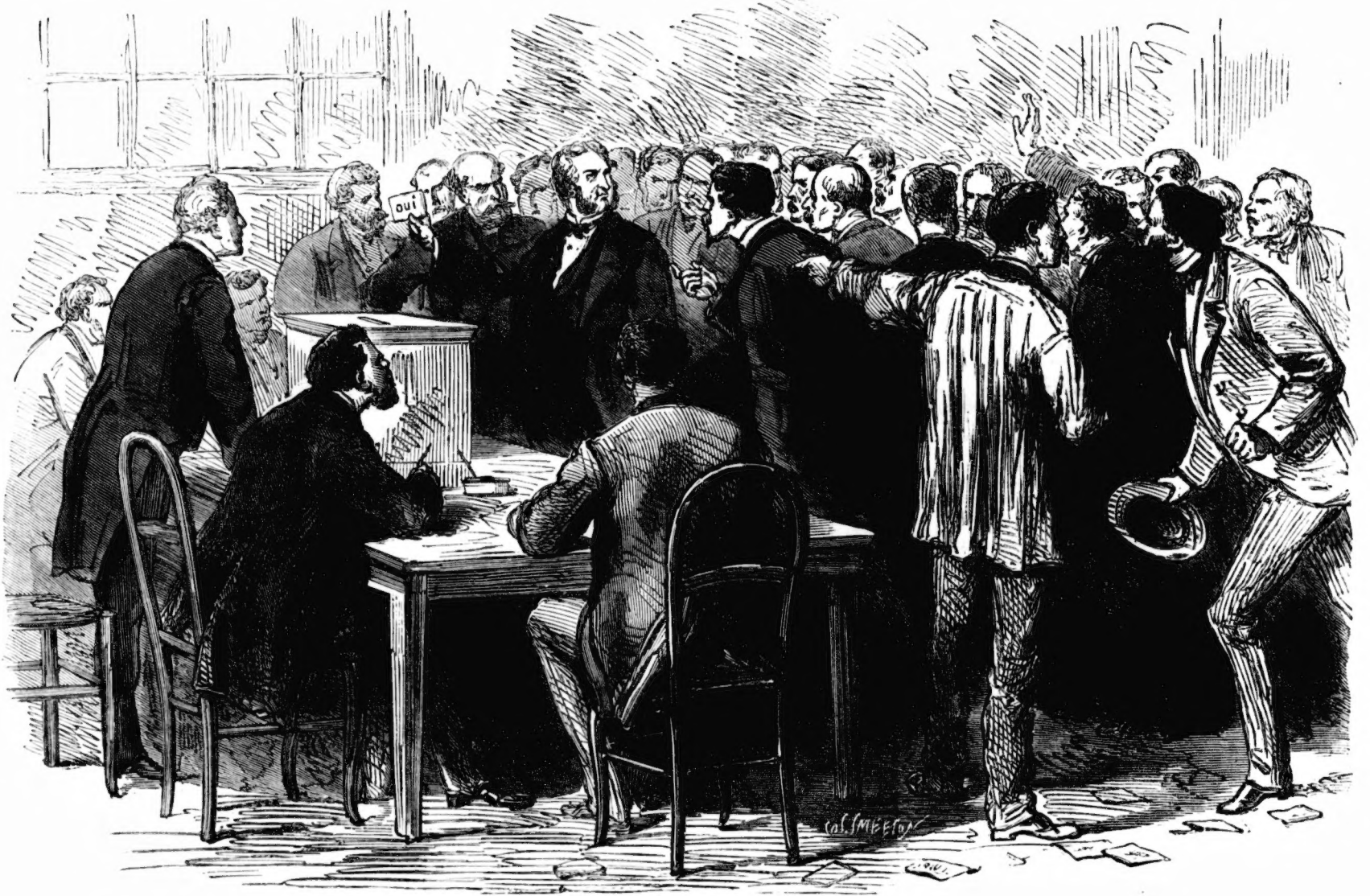
In one of his latest letters Mr. Erskine incloses a translation of the deposition made by the guide of the military detachment which fell in with the tourists while they were still on the plain of Marathon. The guide distinctly declares that he repeatedly warned the party through the dragoman Alexander to drive slowly and keep with the soldiers. "This statement, as it appears to me," adds Mr. Erskine, "is most conclusive against Alexander, who indignantly denied in my presence that any such warning had been given to him." In another despatch, Mr. Erskine says it would almost look as if Alexander was the person who supplied the information as to the travellers' movements to the brigands, and as if another person, named Costa, who is in custody, was the medium of communication with them. On May 7 all trace of the brigands had been lost.

These papers also include documents which have been presented to the Italian Chamber of Deputies relating to the murder of Count Boyl, the Secretary of the Italian Legation at Athens. In a despatch dated April 23, Signor della Minerva, the Italian Minister at Athens, says he considers it his duty to render justice to Mr. Erskine for the activity and zeal he had displayed. They had agreed on all points, had met every day, and their decisions were always the result of a perfect concord in the exchange of their ideas. In a despatch dated Florence, April 30, Signor Visconti Venosta, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, alludes to the want of vigilance on the part of the authorities charged with the maintenance of order in Greece, and says that it had violently excited public opinion. "The Greek Government," he adds, "has had a proof of it in the steps taken by all the diplomatic representatives accredited at Athens. We have had a clear proof of it, also, in the haste with which the Austrian Government has let us know that it is ready to co-operate with us in any measures we think proper to adopt with reference to Greece. A similar communication has also been made by the Cabinet of Vienna in London."

The funeral of the late Mr. Edward Herbert, one of the victims of the Greek massacre, took place, on Monday, at Burghclere Old Church, Hants, near Lord Carnarvon's seat at Highclere Castle. The building had been draped in black, and the Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Muncester, and Mr. Auberon Herbert, M.P., were amongst the mourners. The funeral of Mr. F. G. Vyner, another of the captives massacred by Greek brigands, took place on Tuesday, at Grantham, Lincolnshire. Earl De Grey and Ripon, Earl Cowper, Lord Muncester, and Lady Mary Vyner, the mother of the deceased, were amongst those who followed the remains. In the city of Ripon the shops were closed, every blind was drawn, the Fine-Arts Exhibition was shut up, and muffled peals were rung from the cathedral.

THE ENGLISH MASONS.—The installation of Earl De Grey and Ripon as Grand Master of the Freemasons of England took place last Saturday evening, in the presence of a numerous and distinguished assembly, which included the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Zetland, Earl Dalhousie, Earl Percy, M.P., the Earl of Limerick, Lord Leigh, Lord De Tabley, Sir Warren Hayes, Sir Michael Costa, and Sir Albert Woods. Amid an elaborate and splendid ceremonial, Lord Zetland, the retiring Grand Master, induced his successor into the chair of office; and the assembled Masons, about 1200 in number, saluted Lord De Grey as Master Mason. The noble Earl then informed the Lodge that he had appointed the Earl of Carnarvon Deputy Grand Master, and that his Lordship was unavoidably prevented from attending. Lord Zetland was afterwards presented with an address, expressing the regret of the craft at his retirement.

THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT-RACES.—The second of the series of three races which have been arranged between the American yacht *Sappho* and the English yacht *Cambria* was appointed to come off last Saturday, but resulted in a "walk over" of the course by one vessel, and a protest by the owner of the other against the course fixed by the umpires, as being contrary to the articles of agreement. One of the conditions of the agreement was that the second match should be sailed "sixty miles to windward of the starting point." A "dead beat," with the wind in her teeth, would, it was acknowledged, tell in favour of the *Cambria*. The course fixed on Saturday by the umpires, Mr. Ashbury, the owner of the *Cambria*, contended was not a "dead beat;" and, as the umpires refused to alter the orders they had given, the result was that the *Sappho* started and went over the course alone, the *Cambria* remaining at the starting-place. The *Sappho* has been awarded the cup. The last of the series of three matches between the *Cambria* and the *Sappho* was sailed on Tuesday, and has resulted in another victory for the American schooner.



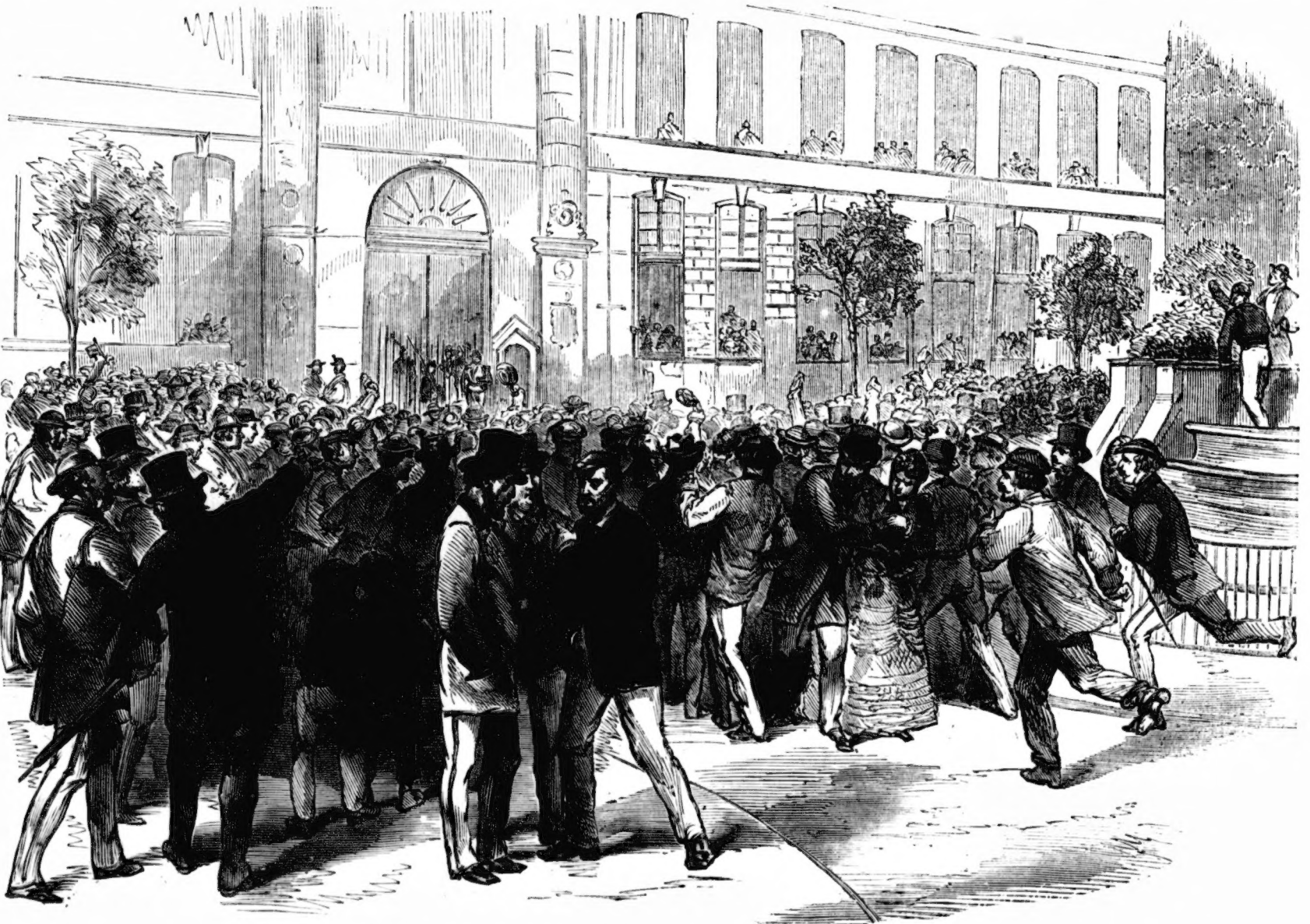
THE PLEBISCITE IN PARIS: M. ROUHER AT THE URN.

THE PLEBISCITE IN FRANCE.

ALTHOUGH what we may call the official declaration of the poll is not yet published—the Committee of the Corps Législatif being still engaged, at the time we write, in counting up the numbers—we have an unauthorised return of the entire voting throughout France and Algeria, which gives the ayes at 7,336,434; and the noes, 1,560,709. Perfect tranquillity now reigns in Paris, the only apparent squabbling being in the columns

of the papers, which continue to analyse the recent vote. The *Temps* publishes a table which shows that, while the seventeen departments of France which stand the highest as far as instruction goes recorded 450,071 negative votes, the twenty-three most ignorant departments only recorded 221,888. In the seventeen departments where instruction is general 26 per cent of the electors voted against the Government; and in the twenty-three departments where from half to three quarters of the people are illiterate, only 11½ per cent.

We this week publish a number of Engravings illustrative of scenes in Paris during the voting, which tell their own story with sufficient distinctness to obviate the necessity of detailed description. The voting in the capital excited little apparent interest, the most prominent feature of the affair being the large number of soldiers gathered together, and held in readiness to repress any disturbances, or, perhaps, to hint the propriety of voting "yes." Soldiers were massed in every available place, though considerable efforts are said to have been used to keep their



SCENE ON THE PLACE DE LA CHATEAU D'EAU DURING THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES.

presence from being known. There were soldiers at the Louvre, ideas at the Luxembourg, artillery in force in the courtyard of the Conservatory of Arts and Metiers; and even the Tuilleries Gardens were occupied by a garrison, their usual occupants—the musketeers, their charges and admirers—being ejected for the nonce. The soldiers themselves voted under certain disadvantages if their predilections were in favour of voting "Non." Plenty of "Oui" bulletins were to be had within barracks, but as "Nons" were deemed unnecessary there, none were provided; so the negatively-minded military had either to procure bulletins from without or write out answers for themselves, in presence of their officers—an operation that required a good deal of moral courage for its performance.

Still, large numbers succeeded in accomplishing the feat, to the disgust, we daresay, as well as the surprise, of the Emperor and his advisers. A good deal of interest was felt as to how one of these advisers—M. Rothery, who, though nominally in political disgrace, is still, it is believed, a power at Court—would vote. M. Rothery represents the principle of personal government in an especial degree; and the question was, the plebiscite being taken, as was supposed, to confirm the abolition of personal rule, and to seal with public approval the adoption of a Parliamentary régime, would M. Rothery support the new system? Of course, M. Rothery supported the new system, which contains elements quite satisfactory to the ex-Minister, and was ready to show all who wished to know that his bulletin bore the orthodox "Oui" before he dropped it into the urn. Perhaps the greatest point of interest was at the Chateau d'Eau, the soldiers in barracks there being understood to be strongly adverse to the Government; comparatively speaking, that is. How the bulk of the civic population of Paris would vote was known—there was sure to be a majority of "Nons" from them; but the course the military would pursue was doubtful, and so there was quite a rush to the Place de la Chateau d'Eau to learn the result. There, as at the Barracks Eugene, more "Nons" were cast than at any other military post.

As the daily newspapers will have kept the public pretty fully informed as to the course of events in Paris, it will, perhaps, be more profitable to occupy the space at our disposal with some information as to affairs in the provinces and the voting in the army. A correspondent, writing from Pontarlier, department of the Doubs, on Monday, May 16, says:—

"As regards political information, rural France—which comprises 71 per cent of the entire population—is behindhand to a degree hardly conceivable in a country of free journalism. The miserable handbills pretending to be newspapers which supply the journalistic requirements even of towns of the size of Macon or Besançon, do in some degree perform the duty of criticising the acts of the Administration; but in the rural districts, not only is no newspaper published but none even circulates. The old story that many rural voters in 1852 had not been posted up in political events, even as far as the decease of a certain great personage on the island of St. Helena, is really not so absurd as it might appear. To form a notion of the absolute blank in the mind of the French peasantry with regard to public affairs we must go back beyond the time when our Mists and Deafies furnished country gentlemen with manuscript news letters or apocryphal broadsheets narrating the 'wonderful apparition' that had appeared to Mrs. Veal. Even such aids to reflection as these do not come within the reach of that vast, laborious, saving, but terribly ignorant, multitude who are now the only basis of Imperial power.

"As to the vote in the rural communes, the whole ceremony has been entirely destitute of those guarantees against coercion, or the pious frauds of Government partisans, which I concede to be practically in operation in all great cities. In the country the Mayor, adjoint, or his nominee, who is the legal president, has almost invariably been assisted

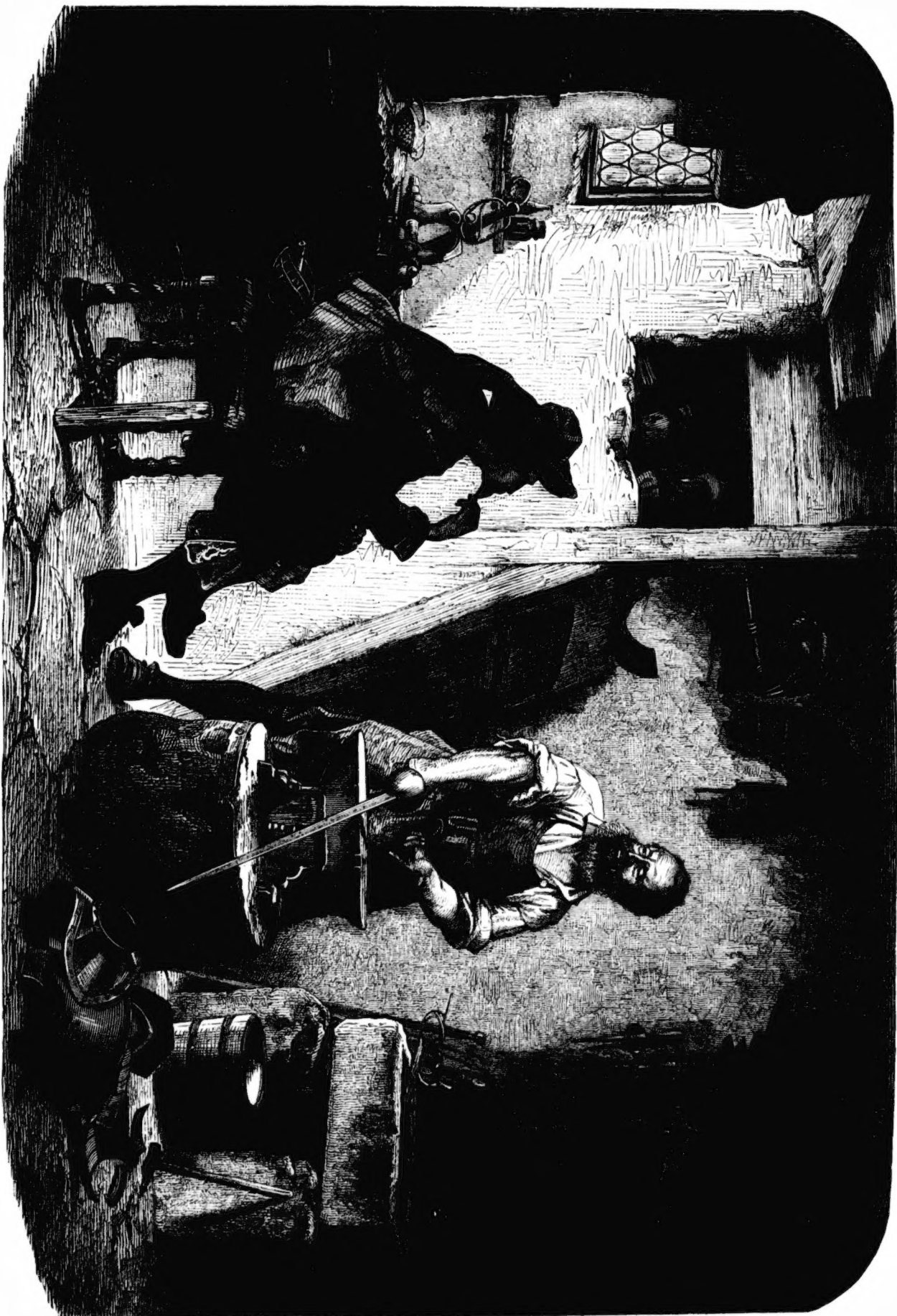
by assessors, equally devoted to the Imperialist cause, and, in fact, chosen beforehand by himself. So slow is the voting in such places that these enthusiastic Imperialists are left absolutely alone with the ballot-box fifty times during a day. Nor is the rural voter protected by anything like secrecy. The Government voting paper must be handed to the president, and, as already pointed out, is easily distinguishable, even when folded. I will undertake to say that there is not a rural commune in France in which the local authorities do not perfectly well know who had the temerity to vote 'Non' on Sunday week. The only true remedy for this would be for

which the Constitution has prescribed. But there is no disguising the fact. The army now comprises a great and growing element of dissatisfaction with Imperial rule. The Government have never yet dared to publish details of the military vote. They prefer to give the result in a lump, and upon data open to the gravest suspicion. At first a few indirect persons did indeed give the results in certain garrisons, but this proceeding was almost immediately stopped by orders from high authority. We know, however, already that more than one garrison, in spite of the extraordinary precautions to which I have alluded, ventured to return a majority of Nons! The garrison at Le Havre was one of these. Again,

tary scrutiny in that great city of famous for its insurrectionary spirit. And yet if the old 'Croix Rousse' should once more send down its furnished weavers to fight in the narrow, tortuous streets that lead to that classic height of Democratic Socialism, these soldiers must be the men to restore peace and the Imperial rule. How many places like Lyons exist, in which the favourite reading of the garrison is Republican papers and addresses, we know not. Each locality probably, or at least the Democratic leaders in each locality, have a rough notion of the truth, and could not easily have detected any gross attempt to falsify local returns. But in the form of a lump total who can gaily, and who, I ask, can put faith, under the circumstances, in the official returns of the voting of the French army?"

"A RINGING PROOF."

Is the old days, when men wore picturesque apparel and carried great broadswords or long rapiers clanging and clanging at their heels as they walked, unless they held them up and steered themselves by them through narrow doorways and in intricate passages; in the old days when Toledo blades were worth good coin, and Damascus yet kept its charcoal fires aglow in the forges, making the fine blue arabesque weapons that spring like watch-springs, and would respond to a thrust by a vigorous wrist by bending point to hilt against a brick wall; in the old days when cold steel decided hot arguments, and men fell from chopping logs to hacking limbs, and found the point of a story in their shirts, and an adversary who had a good four feet of shining iron wherewith to illustrate his position;—in these old days the smith's trade was a good one, and, united to that of the armorer, as it generally was, brought both fame and profit. We, who only occasionally hear of feats such as the severing of a leg of mutton at a blow, or cutting a bar of lead with a back-stroke, wonder and doubt to hear of Saladin's feats with his whirling sabre; of the heavy, sweeping blows that clove through head-piece and shoulder-guard; or of that swift and subtle stroke by which the Oriental swordsman cut through a coin held in the outstretched hand of a retainer without so much as grazing the skin of his palm. Why, we scarcely believe in the ordinary methods of proof when the smith himself, anxious to please a customer who seemed worthy of his steel, and looked as though he meant to find work for it, would ring the blade upon the anvil with such a clang as would have shivered a worthless brand like glass, and with the force of his brawny arm would cleave a deep dint in the edge of the solid metal without turning the tempered steel. In our illustration (from one of the Düsseldorf school of pictures by Litschauer) such a customer is waiting to be served. His eye, his cadaverous face, and the nervous twitching and plucking at his beard, are all indicative of repressed passion, of threatened mischief, of a time of reckoning when, perhaps, the story of that empty sheaf of money—pounds, shillings, and pence—will be told out, and the shame of it avenged. That has nothing to do with the brawny smith, who may, however, guess his secret just as the listening raven seemed to guess the visitor, may seem to guess it and to think of the lonely meeting in the wood—the two white, quivering faces opposite each other—the glint of sparks from clashing steel—the fierce, short shout—the sudden thrust—the scattering of falling feet—the heavy fall—and then the little crimson pool, the dead silence, and the shining of the moon on a still, upturned face. To the raven and to the dark brooding customer these things seem to occur as the burden of that harsh song the key-note of which is struck out by the "Ringing Proof"; but to the craftsman who tries the blade it means the jingle of money—pounds, shillings, and pence tinkling in its bones. So, each to his own work; but let him think well of the wages.



"A RINGING PROOF."—(PICTURE BY LITSCHAUER.)

the Government to print both 'Ouis' and 'Nons' on precisely the same paper, of an opaque kind. But, so far from this being the case, the very attempt to distribute opposition bulletins in the rural districts has been met with the most resolute repression. I myself saw voters driven from the voting-place of a rural district at the time of the scrutiny, in direct violation of the law, which requires that act to be done in public.

"The judgment of the great cities is ominous for the future of Imperialism; but, after all, the numerous tokens of disaffection in the army are the gravest facts of the plebiscitary vote. If the rural voter has not been free, it is easy to judge what must have been the degree of freedom of the soldier compelled to vote within his barracks, with closed doors, and without any of those checks in the way of assessors

at Douai the Foot Chasseurs, who only number 700, gave 334 votes against the Empire. The twentieth battalion at Boulogne, 618 strong, dropped into the ballot-box 238 'nons'; while we all know that 1133 of the 2565 soldiers in the famous barracks of the Prince Eugene—the central point of the recent disturbances—replied to the invitation to return an answer to the plebiscite with the same terribly ominous monosyllable. Facts of this kind were beginning to be published on the evening of Sunday and the morning following; but the telegraphs went to work, and from that time the 'Scrutins partiels' of the army have entirely disappeared both from the provincial and the Parisian journals.

"The facts reported from Lyons on this subject are significant. To this hour the authorities have never ventured to give us the result of the mil-

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 378. THE BATTLE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

On Wednesday, May 4, Mr. Jacob Bright carried the second reading of his "Women's Disabilities Removal Bill" by a majority of 33, and great was the joy in the Ladies' Gallery, which was full of strong-minded females, come to hear the debate. The numbers on the division were—ayes, 121; noes, 91. The victory was quite unexpected. Indeed, because it was unexpected it was gained. A large number of the opponents of the bill stopped away because they thought that there was not a chance that the second reading would be carried. There was, moreover, another reason why Mr. Bright was able to snatch this victory: Government did not oppose the second reading. Mr. Bruce, who, in the absence of Mr. Gladstone, led the House, had received no orders; and, as he was only lieutenant-in-command, he could not act without orders. On Thursday, the 12th, the bill stood on the paper for Committee, and at the proper time Mr. Jacob Bright rose and moved that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair; whereupon up-rires from the topmost bench behind the Government (his usual place) the Right Honourable Edward Pease, Mr. Bouvierie, the late Earl Radnor's son, and moves "that the House will go into Committee on the bill this day six months"—that is, not at all, for on that day six months the House will not be sitting. "The postponement of a bill in this manner," Sir Erskine May says, "is regarded as the most courteous method of dismissing the bill from any further consideration." Surely a misapplied word is that word courteous. The bill by this method is knowingly, wilfully, and effectively, of *malice prepense*, destroyed; and we cannot see that this circumlocutory method is more courteous than one more direct. Loud cheers greeted Mr. Bouvierie when he rose; and when we heard the cheers, and glanced round the House, and noted, further, that the Government and Opposition whips were all operating against the bill, we saw that it was inexorably doomed.

MR. BOUVIERIE'S ONSLAUGHT.

Mr. Bouvierie's speech was after his own manner—clear, vigorous, and unsparingly logical. Some speakers, when they have to confront an opponent, soften the effect of the blow by circumlocutory phraseology or by judiciously interposing a few complimentary phrases; but there was no circumlocution, no compliments, in Mr. Bouvierie's speech. He struck hard and direct, right from the shoulder, as that muscular Christian Mr. Charles Kingsley advises. Whilst the hon. member was dealing his vigorous blows, we looked up at the Ladies' Gallery, where we saw more than a dozen pretty faces pressed against the brass screen, and glittering like stars in the brilliant gaslight; and as we gazed we saw, or fancied we saw, a flush of anger pass athwart their bright countenances. Probably the uppermost feeling was an uncontrollable desire to step themselves into the arena and grapple—logically, of course—with their foe; and we doubt not that from some whom we know, if they could have entered the lists, Mr. Bouvierie would have got as good as he gave.

SIR ROBERT ANSTRUTHER'S CHIVALROUS DEFENCE.

But patience, ladies, patience! You cannot yet appear in person in the lists to take up the gauntlet. But here is a gallant knight—light Sir Robert Anstruther, of Balcaniskie—who, "full of fire and greedy hardiment," like the knight in the "Færie Queen," is hotly panting, and hanging like a hound upon the slip, ready to rush into the lists, as your champion in this fight. But let Lord Elcho first deliver his stroke, or, in plain, prosaic phrase, second the motion of the right hon. member for Kilmarnock. There! his Lordship is down, and has done you no harm. It was indeed but a feeble stroke that the noble Lord delivered. He thought the worst thing for these strong-minded females that the House could do would be to give them votes; whereupon, no doubt, a score of ruby lips in the gallery were curled in scorn. And now a word or two about Sir Robert, who, as we see, is restless, fidgety, and eager for the fray, as he sits there just at Gladstone's back. He is the son of Sir Ralph Abercrombie Anstruther, and was born in 1834. He is, therefore, thirty-six years of age. For nine years he served in the Grenadier Guards. In 1864 Fifeshire, his own county, returned him to Parliament. He is a tall, well-made, handsome man. Sir Robert does not often speak; but that is not because he has not the gift of speech—for he can speak, and speak well; and he does not speak in that dull, prosy manner which is the characteristic of most of the Scotch members, but with life and energy, in a fluent, loud-toned, and somewhat rattling style; and, having been educated at Harrow, he has no Scotch accent. As soon as Lord Elcho had dropped into his seat, Sir Robert leaped to his feet, burst into the lists (to resume the figurative style), and for twenty minutes or more he laid about him—slashing to the right, slashing to the left—with surprising energy, and at times he struck with effect. Indeed, if a rattling charge could have won the battle, it would have been won. Great must have been the enthusiasm in the gallery while Sir Robert was speaking. Indeed, we could discern that there was a fluttering of silks and muslins behind the screen, and it occurred to us that, were there no insuperable obstacle in the way, Sir Robert, as a reward for his chivalry, might have had the pick of the strong-minded spinsters and widows throughout the land. But there is an obstacle. Sir Robert is already married—has been wedded thirteen years, and has five olive-branches—four sons and one daughter—round his table. On referring to "Burke," we find that an ancestor of Sir Robert, the third Baronet, served under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and hence the name, probably, of Sir Robert's father. The third Baronet also served in the Peninsula, under Sir John Moore. He, as General, commanded the the rear-guard of the army, and brought it safely into Corunna, but only to die there. He lies in the bastion of the castle, by the side of Sir John. It was at Sir John's request that he was laid near his friend. I also learn from the same work that our Sir Robert lost a brother at the Battle of the Alma, at the age of eighteen.

THE BATTLE FOUGHT OUT.

After Sir Robert, another Scotchman rose—Lord Garlies, eldest son of the Earl of Galloway, and the representative of Wigtonshire. But of him we need say nothing. His Lordship is one of our feeble folk—one of those who, though they have nothing to say, will speak. Then Mr. Newdegate delivered a solemn, but happily a short, exhortation, in his most sepulchral manner; in the course of which he evoked—quite contrary to his intention, we may be sure—a burst of laughter. For Mr. Newdegate never laughs or intentionally provokes laughter. It was done in this way: Mr. Newdegate said—"Sir, it is argued that because we have given women the municipal franchise they ought to be allowed to vote at Parliamentary elections; but I trust that the distinction between the functions of this House and those of a municipality will always be preserved." And then, turning to the Speaker, he said, with strong emphasis of action, as if he were delivering himself of a clincher—"You, Sir, are not a Mayor!" Whereupon, instead of applause—which, no doubt, the hon. member expected such a settler would call forth—there came a storm of laughter, amidst which a member at the bar was heard to mutter, "No, he's a horse." And now came the Prime Minister; and no doubt there was excitement in the Ladies' Gallery when he rose. When the bill was read the second time Mr. Bruce, the Home Secretary, had received no orders; the Government had not considered the question. But here is the commander-in-chief; and on which side will he range himself? He did not leave us long in doubt. After he had rapidly defended his Government from the charge of hesitancy, on the 4th, he announced plainly that he and his colleagues would oppose the bill. Poor ladies! Though possibly this decision was not altogether unexpected, they, as ladies will do, had hoped even against hope; but now all hope is dashed. Mr. Jacob Bright closed the debate by a vigorous speech, in the course of which

he told the House that, since he had been in the House that evening, he had received four telegrams from Kilmarnock (Mr. Bouvierie's borough) informing him that petitions were being prepared, and public meetings being held in that town, whereat Mr. Bouvierie smiled, possibly remembering how at the last general election he defeated Mr. Chadwick (whom the extreme party had put up) by two to one, with 600 votes to spare. Then came the division. For the bill there were 94, against it 220—majority against it, 126. You should have seen that Ladies' Gallery whilst Glyn was reading out the numbers! All the occupants seemed to us from below to be standing up, whilst every face in the front row appeared to be flattening itself against the bars of the cage. When the numbers had been declared officially by Mr. Speaker, the members rose *en masse*, and flowed out of the House; and as we gazed at the regions behind the Speaker's chair, one by one those luminous stars, which had been shining up there all night, disappeared. Some of the strongest of the strong-minded, we learned, were very wrathful, and loudly expressed their wrath as they passed out of the gallery. Some of them were minatory, especially towards "that Bouvierie."

DR. BREWER ON THE VAGRANTS.

On Friday nights Supply is always the first order of the day. The House, though, rarely on these nights gets into Supply. Indeed, Supply is put first on the paper as a sort of escape-pipe for honourable members superfluous steam, or, in plain words, that they may, on the motion "That the Speaker do now leave the chair," bring forward grievances, air their crochets, opinions, and policies, trot out their hobbies, or, at least, display their oratorical powers. Generally, the proceedings on these Friday nights are very tame, dull, and wearisome. And this is not wonderful; on the contrary, it is quite natural. For the most part—or at least too often—on these nights poor speakers talk about matters which they do not understand, or, as a witty member put it in his figurative way, bad riders trot about on broken-kneed, broken-winded hobbies, than which nothing can be less attractive. But Friday night last week was an exception to the rule, for on that night we had, first, an instructive debate, and then a discussion which caused a good deal of excitement. The first was upon metropolitan vagrancy, which has grown to alarming proportions of late years, and demands attention. Dr. Brewer, the member for Colchester, began the debate. Now, to most of the members, neither the speaker nor his subject was attractive, and so when the Doctor rose the members in considerable numbers scattered. It was a fine evening; the wind, which had so long been in the east, had veered round to the south-west, and it was not to be expected that the young members would forego their ride in the park to listen to Dr. Brewer on vagrancy. Then the men of business had to write their letters. In short, the hour and other circumstances were very unpropitious to Dr. Brewer, which was a pity, for the speech of the hon. member for Colchester was, as we soon came to learn, not one of our usual Friday night speeches, but a sound speech full of information, which must have cost the speaker great time and labour to acquire. And much of this knowledge was obviously not gained from books or hearsay, but from actual observation and experience. In a word, the Doctor had thoroughly mastered and understood his subject, and therefore, being gifted with a reasonably good style of speaking, could make his audience understand it. This is high praise, as high as ordinary members could desire; but this the honourable member deserves. About the policy of placing these vagrants under the police which Dr. Brewer recommends, we say nothing.

THE GREAT BARRY CASE.

Mr. Ayrton is First Commissioner of Works and Buildings. Mark this word buildings, readers. He is generally called First Commissioner of Works. When he took this office he discovered that there was only one building not under his supreme control—to wit, the Palace of Westminster. All the other palaces and buildings belonging to the Crown were, but this was not. There an architect, Mr. Barry, who divided, to say the least of it, the control with the Minister of works and buildings. Mr. Ayrton characteristically objected to what he considered a usurpation of his authority. "All other public buildings are under the supreme control of my office; why should not this be? It ought to be, must be, and shall be. Nominally I am responsible; I will be really. As matters stand, I can neither regulate nor record the expenditure." Thus argued Mr. Ayrton, and thus he decided; and promptly Mr. Barry received notice to quit. Really, Mr. Barry held no appointment. He was not an officer of the House; nor, indeed, an officer at all. He and his father before him had been architects of the palace for over thirty years, but only on sufferance. It is said that Mr. Ayrton's notice was curt and discourteous—probably, official letters are rarely otherwise; and Mr. Ayrton is not the man to improve the official style. Naturally, Mr. Barry was sorely hurt. This office of architect to the palace must have been very profitable to his family. It came out in the debate that the commission of an architect is 5 per cent. Some three millions of money have been spent on this building. Five per cent on three millions is £150,000. Besides, other works are projected; a dining-room is to be erected next vacation, and a new Commons' House looms in the future. In fact, in such a vast building there is always something to be done. Besides, there is the honour of the thing; not a mere barren honour, but honour bringing profitable connections, as anyone may see. It was not wonderful, then, that Mr. Barry should be chafed; nor was it surprising that he should get some friend to bring his sad case before the House. We have thus shortly summarised the Barry case because we believe that, spread as it was over the mass of verbiage which the daily papers reported, our readers must have found it difficult to get at the truth.

MR. COWPER-TEMPLE.

The Right Hon. William Cowper-Temple acted as counsel for Mr. Barry. This is the Mr. William Cowper whom we once knew so well as First Commissioner in Lord Palmerston's Government. He is Lord Palmerston's step-son; and when Lord Palmerston died he left Mr. Cowper the Broadlands estate, subject to his mother's life interest therein, on condition that when he came into possession of the estate he should take Lord Palmerston's family name, Temple, which, of course, for such a consideration, he willingly did. Whilst his step-father was in power, there was always a place for Mr. Cowper; but when Gladstone formed his Government Mr. Cowper-Temple was left out in the cold. Mr. Cowper-Temple made a very long, wearisome, wordy speech. He might have compressed all he had to say in half the words; but he has not, nor ever had, the art of packing his facts and thoughts in a small compass. It was painful to listen to him as he unfolded his client's case in his accustomed involved, circumlocutory style, and weak and monotonous voice.

AYRTON'S DEFENCE.

Mr. Ayrton followed immediately, and, though his cannot be called a condensed style, he speaks vigorously and clearly; but he would speak more effectively if he would use fewer words. Our First Commissioner had little trouble to defend his policy. The charge of want of courtesy he did not attempt or care to meet, and yet it struck us that if he had been more courteous he would have had a larger majority in his favour. He is not popular in the House because he is so curt and prickly; and there were not a few in the House who voted not against Ayrton's policy, but against Ayrton. The debate was prolonged to a late hour, but Mr. Ayrton's facts were impugnable. Some said that Government would be defeated. A gentleman who has made himself conspicuous by his somewhat spiteful opposition to the Government said that he was sure that this would be so. The wish was father to that thought. The numbers were—For the Government, 152; against, 109; majority, 43. And thus the long reign of the Barrys was ended. We live in revolutionary times. Last year we overthrew a hierarchy; this year we have dethroned a dynasty.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 13. HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord MORLEY stated, in reply to Lord Alhrie, that the question of regulating the trade of travelling hawkers and pedlars, in the event of the licence duty being abolished, was under Ministerial consideration. The Oyster and Mussel Fisheries Supplemental Bill was read the second time, and the Ecclesiastical Patronage Transfer Bill and the War Office Bill were passed through their final stages.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE HOMELESS POOR.

Dr. BREWER directed attention to the unsatisfactory working of the regulations in force to secure the humane intentions of the Legislature on behalf of the homeless poor, consequent on the practically indiscriminate distribution of relief given to the whole class of applicants, criminal or non-criminal, impostors or genuine poor; and moved as a solution, which was seconded by Mr. Bromley-Davenport, that vagrants applying for relief and food should be put under the protection, regulation, and management of the police.

The debate was continued by Mr. Corrance, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. C. F. Read, Mr. W. H. Smith, and Mr. Wheelhouse.

Mr. GOSCHEN assured the House that the Government were anxiously considering the subject, with the view of devising some scheme to correct the evil of vagrancy, but it was not sufficient that the Home Office and the Poor-Law Board should co-operate for the purpose. Another power could contribute far more to that object, and that was the public itself. He admitted that there was a great evil in casual wards, but there was no other except between them and refugees, which were really regarded as "hotels" by the casual poor. The expense of vagrants in the metropolis amounted to only one-sixteenth of a penny in the pound for the whole year. But there were evils connected with it apart from the question of numbers and cost; for the vagrant class fed the class of permanent paupers. They could not but be increasing the stringency of the casual wards at night put down vagrancy, unless the public discouraged it during the day. One remedy which had not been tried, and which he felt strongly disposed to try, was the power of detention in other words, a kind of imprisonment. By that means they would be much more likely to find a remedy than by simply changing the way who administered the law. If the guardians had the power to detain paupers, they would be much stronger than the police. It might also be useful to change the definition of a rogue and vagabond in such a manner that a given number of applications for admittance to the casual ward should constitute an offence under the law. This, he thought, would be a powerful means of diminishing vagrancy and pauperism. With regard to employing the police, the objection was that they could not discriminate between the casual and the vagrant. If the deserving vagrants were to be dealt with by the guardians, and the undeserving by the police, there would have to be two establishments in every union; and that would entail great expense and be of doubtful working. Still, he was favourable to trusting the police as far as practicable, especially in those cases where the staff of the workhouse was so small that it could not cope successfully with the vagrancy of the district.

Sir M. H. BEACH preferred the remedies sketched in the motion to those sketched out by the President of the Poor-Law Board without new legislation.

Colonel DYOTT expressed his satisfaction at the statement of Mr. Goschen; and, after some observations from Sir J. Lawrence, the motion was withdrawn.

THE GOVERNMENT AND MR. E. BARRY, C.E.

Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE then brought under the notice of the House the correspondence relating to the dismissal of Mr. E. Barry from his employment as architect of the Houses of Parliament, and moved that the proceeding was recalled for, and of doubtful expediency.

Mr. AYRTON observed that in all he had done he had been governed solely by the consideration that it was his most important duty, as First Commissioner of Works, to account to the House of Commons for the manner in which the public money was expended. The view he took of the relations of Mr. Barry and his late father with regard to the contract plans and drawings of the Houses of Parliament, which they had prepared whilst they were in the employment of the Crown, was, that such documents, for which they had been paid by the public, were of necessity the property of the Crown. The Office of Works did not hold itself answerable to the Royal Institute of Architects, and it was not in the power of the First Commissioner to create a continuous office under the Crown. Mr. Barry, indeed, was conscious that he was not appointed to a permanent employment, but that his appointment was, *pro hac vice*, to superintend the expenditure of money actually voted by Parliament; and this he admitted in a letter he wrote in January last, and in which he stated explicitly he did not hold an appointment under which the Parliament Houses were placed in his charge. Feeling that the responsibility of the First Commissioner was insufficient, he consulted the Government, and in consequence the department of works was reorganised and changes made in its administration, but in these changes Mr. Barry refused to acquiesce. In conclusion, Mr. Ayrton declared that he was not prepared to subscribe to the doctrine that a combination of architects might regulate the administration of his department; and he was happy to say that the Government had concurred in his suggestion that no architect should be employed under the office of works who did not sign a plain contract, containing terms which were for the interest of the public as well as of the architect.

A long debate followed, which ended in the rejection of the motion by 152 votes to 109.

MONDAY, MAY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord SHAFTESBURY laid upon the table a bill appropriating a portion of the rates in boroughs for the support of existing schools.

The Bishop of WINCHESTER informed the noble Lord that the Ritual Commission had already presented two reports, and, he hoped, would be able to present their third and final one very shortly.

Lord SALISBURY introduced a bill to relieve churchwardens from the obligation of paying certain charges formerly levied out of church rates.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LONDON CABS.

The HOME SECRETARY, replying to an inquiry of Mr. M. Guest, stated that there was no immediate intention to alter the existing cab regulations of the metropolis; though, in the course of the Session, a bill would be introduced to consolidate the several cab Acts.

REPORT ON PRIMARY EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply to Mr. V. Harcourt, announced that the Commission appointed to inquire into this subject had closed its sittings, and that the report—of the recommendations contained in which he knew nothing—would be ready for presentation to the Queen by June 1. It would therefore, he hoped, be in the hands of members when they were asked to go into Committee on the English Education Bill, in the second week in June.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The consideration of the Irish Land Bill, in Committee, was resumed at clause 39, the first of the series which provide for the advance of public money to landlords and tenants for various purposes. This and the succeeding section passed without much difficulty; but clause 41, authorising advances to tenants for the purchase of their holdings, led to a good deal of debate, and some alterations in favour of the tenant were made in the terms according to which the money is to be advanced and repaid. Mr. Whalley availed himself of this opportunity to denounce the policy of the Government as tending directly to the encouragement of Fenianism, outrage, and murder. Sir G. Jenkinson divided the Committee against the clause; but it was carried by a majority of 87—114 to 27. After this the progress made was exceedingly rapid. By twenty minutes past ten o'clock all the sections "in the print" had been agreed to—the passage of the last, which was for a moment challenged by some members of the Opposition, being hailed with a cordial cheer from the Ministerial benches—and the Committee passed on to the consideration of the new clauses proposed by Mr. C. Fortescue, to replace the omitted second section, legalising customs other than the Ulster custom, and, after being subjected to a verbal criticism by Mr. Synan, it was agreed to without opposition. Then the Secretary for Ireland moved a clause relieving from liability to payment of damages for eviction a landlord who had given permission to the person evicted to obtain compensation from the incoming tenant. Several gentlemen objected that this provision was not necessary, and would not, if introduced, prove effective; and in the end it was withdrawn. Mr. Kavanagh asked the Committee to agree to a section depriving of compensation a tenant who had come in under an assignment made without the knowledge of the landlord, if evicted within one year from the date of the instrument. This proposal met with a great deal of opposition, and when the Committee divided it was rejected by a majority of 72—192 to 120. Mr. Bagwell moved a clause conferring upon every "occupying agricultural tenant" in Ireland the right to a lease for twenty-one years, renewable for ever, with a new valuation for rent at the end of eighteen years. This proposal met with little favour, and, being opposed alike by the Solicitor-General for Ireland and Dr. Ball, was negatived without a division. Soon afterwards progress was reported.

TUESDAY, MAY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships had before them two measures for dealing with the sequestrated livings of clergymen; one introduced by the Bishop of Winchester and the other by the Earl of Harrowby. After a short con-

version, the bill of the right rev. prelate was preferred, and, after being read the second time, was referred to a Select Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN.

The UNDER-SECRETARY for the COLONIES explained, at the instance of Mr. Macneil, the terms on which Ministers have consented to guarantee the New Zealand loan for the promotion of immigration and the construction of roads in that colony; and added the expression of a hope that the House would agree to a proposal which was intended as a proof of the goodwill of this country at a time when, not without difficulty, an important principle in regard to the military defence of self-governed colonies in time of peace had been finally settled.

THE INDIAN COUNCIL.

Mr. GRAVES, in drawing attention to the constitution of the Council of India, observed that trade was the genius of our Eastern empire, and that there was no better way of securing the sympathy and confidence of the people of India in the Government than by introducing into the Council those who, by their habits of life, their training, and daily avocations, might be regarded as the representatives of those interests which were of such importance both to this country and to the natives of India. The hon. gentleman then submitted a resolution to the effect that it was desirable that the Council should embrace amongst its members persons practically conversant with the trade and commerce of India.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT seconded the motion. Mr. GLADSTONE said that, accepting the discussion as conveying the sense of the House that it was desirable to modify and enlarge the circle of the elements of which the Indian Council was composed, he hoped the House would be satisfied to allow that expression of opinion to have its due weight, and with the assurance of the Government that Ministers would carefully consider the purport and tenor of the sentiments expressed, and not ask the House, by adopting the motion, to embarrass the Government in making their selections to the Council, and diminish instead of enhancing their responsibility.

Mr. GRAVES having intimated that he was content with the opinion he had elicited from the House, and accepted the assurance of the Premier, the motion was withdrawn.

EDUCATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. FAWCETT rose to propose a motion relating to the state of education amongst children employed in agriculture, but had uttered only a few sentences when the House was counted out.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. BUNTON moved the second reading of his Municipal Boroughs (Metropolis) Bill, being the first of a series of three, the intention of which is the establishment of a municipal federation for the government of the metropolis. This it proposes to do by creating a central Corporation, with a Lord Mayor at its head, having jurisdiction over the entire metropolis for all common purposes, and a separate Corporation for every metropolitan borough, whose powers should be limited to purely local objects.

Mr. BENTINCK opposed the second reading; and stated as his main objection that the measure failed to secure an efficient central government. What he desired to see was the abolition of the Commissioners of Sewers and the application of the property vested in them, such of it as was held under distinct trusts, to special uses, and the rest to the common purposes of the metropolis.

Lord J. MANNERS pointed out the difficulty that a private member must necessarily encounter in the attempt to legislate on this subject, and thought it was a matter which required to be taken up by the Imperial Government after they had secured the co-operation and assistance of the present municipal authorities. Any further investigation by a Select Committee, however, was in his opinion unnecessary.

Mr. LOCKE supported the second reading, but expressed his preference for one general corporation for the metropolis, divided into wards, each represented by a certain number of aldermen and common councillors.

The HOME SECRETARY acknowledged that the question was one which ought to be undertaken upon the responsibility of the Executive, but thought that inquiry by a Select Committee would be useful, the Committee to be so nominated as to represent all the interests concerned and not pledged to any particular form of corporate government. The desirability of having the assistance of the present local authorities was obvious. He regretted, therefore, the hostile attitude which had been assumed by the Corporation of the city of London.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY (speaking on behalf of the City Corporation) promised that they would not only offer no opposition to the suggested inquiry, but afford all the assistance in their power to make it complete, upon the understanding that the Committee were not pledged to the particular scheme contained in the bill.

Ultimately the House divided, agreed to read the bill the second time by 130 to 66, and ordered it to be referred to a Select Committee. The debate on the second of Mr. Buxton's Corporation Bills was adjourned, after a short conversation, until Monday.

PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY moved the second reading of the Married Women's Property Bill, the design of which is to prevent the forfeiture of the wife's property by the act of marriage, and securing her right to it notwithstanding her coverture. The right hon. gentleman observed that he made the proposal in the interest of 800,000 married women who were at the present moment earning wages in this country.

Mr. C. RAIKES, who had a rival measure standing for second reading, opposed the motion; but after some discussion the bill was read the second time.

Mr. RAIKES then moved the second reading of his measure, which provided that the wife should not be able to part with her property; but from the time of her marriage that it should be held in trust for the benefit of her children, the husband being the trustee, but the wife having power to remove him from his trusteeship upon application to a County Court Judge, who should appoint another in his place. A further provision protected the earnings of the wife, when she was the bread winner of the family.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT opposed the bill, and moved that it be read the second time that day six months, which was carried, upon a division, by 208 to 46. The bill was therefore lost.

THURSDAY, MAY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY laid on the table a bill to repeal the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, which was read the first time.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Lord HOUGHTON moved the second reading of this bill, after presenting a number of petitions in its favour. He disclaimed any intention of making this a party measure, and said that it was the first one of any importance that had been sent up from the House of Commons, where it had been passed by a large majority, which he trusted would have an impression upon their Lordships. He based on reason and custom his appeal to their Lordships to pass this bill.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH moved that the bill be read the second time that day six months.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN supported the second reading of the bill. The Bishop of ELY contended that the prohibition to marry a deceased wife's sister was founded on Christian principles.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY hoped the House would not reject a measure which had been so thoroughly discussed and judgment so decidedly pronounced upon it.

The Bishop of RIPON could not find any restriction in the Word of God upon such marriages; but, on the contrary, it tacitly permitted them.

Lord LANSDOWN opposed the measure as a most immoral one. The Bishop of LINCOLN opposed it as against the laws of God.

Lord WESTBURY insisted that the law as it stood was based upon an erroneous interpretation of the Scriptures, continued by a spirit of bigotry, and framed in utter violation of civil and religious liberty.

The Bishop of PETERBOROUGH said, if they passed the bill they would establish a most dangerous principle, which would, by the logic of events and the force of men's passions, result in the abolition of affinity.

The LORD CHANCELLOR did not consider this question as a religious one, but upon social grounds he must vote against the bill.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the debate which had taken place that night had destroyed every vestige of argument against the bill.

Lord HOUGHTON having replied, the House divided.

For the second reading, 73; against it, 77: majority against the bill, 4.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. GREVILLE-NUGENT took the oath and his seat on his election for the county of Longford.

CARRIAGE LICENSES.

Mr. CLARE READ asked if coachmakers who lend their carriages to their customers free of charge, during the time their customers' carriages are undergoing repairs, are liable for duty? Whether such carriages being actually exchanged or bought the coachmakers will still be liable for the duty; and if the Inland Revenue Department are correct in stating that "the law requires a license to be taken out for every carriage used?"

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said there was now no carriage duty, but a license; and the coachmaker in a similar case to the one stated would have to take out a license. A person buying a carriage would have to take out a fresh license. If only one carriage were in use at one time a single license would be sufficient, and no license would be required for a carriage not in use.

THE EDMUNDS SCANDAL.

In reply to Sir J. Elphinstone, Mr. LOWE said that, at the earnest request of Mr. Edmunds, all matter in dispute between himself and the Crown had been referred to arbitration, and the arbitrators had decided

that Mr. Edmunds should pay to the Crown the sum of £7142 13s. Judgment was signed for that amount on April 11; and, under the advice of the law officers of the Crown, he (Mr. Lowe) had signed an execution in default of payment. He had been carefully advised in the course he had adopted, and had no intention of withholding his hand.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The House once more went into Committee on the Irish Land Bill. Sir J. GRAY moved the insertion, after clause 11, of a lengthy clause which, with its subdivisions, occupied three pages of the notice paper. The object of the clause was to enable the owners of land not subject to usage named in clauses 1 and 2, by registering the land under the Parliamentary permissive tenant right to free it from claims by the tenant under this Act, subject to certain rules, provided that the rent agreed upon, or payable, shall continue until altered by mutual agreement, the Court to be called in as arbitrator as to continuance of rent in case of disagreement between landlord and tenant after fourteen years; that the tenant shall have a chattel interest in his holding with power to sell, but not to sublet or to subdivide the same; that the tenant shall have no claim against the landlord in case he voluntarily surrenders his holding; that the tenant shall not be disturbed except for non-payment of rent, subletting or dividing, waste or drainage; that both may agree on fine in lieu of adjustment of rent; with other conditions.

Mr. C. FORBES considered that the clause would be in opposition to the general scope of the bill, and for these and other considerations it must be opposed.

Mr. E. S. READ considered that the clause would render the landlord an absentee even more than the bill itself, which was sufficiently objectionable.

Mr. GREGORY thought the clause would improve the relations between landlord and tenant.

Mr. SANDERSON thought the clause would be fraught with danger to all classes in Ireland, and should therefore give it his uncompromising opposition.

Mr. SYNAN did not object to perpetuity if agreed upon between landlord and tenant. He should support the clause.

Mr. G. GREGORY opposed the clause.

After a lengthened discussion, the Committee divided—For the clause, 29; against it, 317: majority, 288.

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MURDER AND PLEASURE.

It is a useful thing when some public event, good or bad in itself, uncovers to us, for a short time, the habits of thought and feeling of those classes of the people who, as a rule, do not shrink in fastidious horror from contact with offences against the law or from the officers of the law; while at the same time only a few of them may be capable of anything criminal. The Chelsea tragedy, as it is called, may serve to remind us of one or two facts which are, indeed, familiar, but not sufficiently remembered by propagandists, reformers, legislators, literary men, ladies, and clergymen. It seems that the scenes of the murders have been haunted ever since the day of the discovery by crowds of people who take what it is the fashion to call "a morbid interest" in such matters. The steam-boats that run between London Bridge and Chelsea have been crowded with men and women, the latter frequently accompanied with children, all of them eager to get a sight of "the very place where it was done, you know!" A good deal of this flocking is mere gregariousness. Anyone who will take the trouble to make the experiment upon a dozen people in a large street mob expecting a pageant of some kind will discern that about every fourth person is merely following the bell-wether, and has not the least idea of what the people are gathered together for. But it still remains true that among ignorant people—and not exclusively among them—there is this insatiable desire to become as familiar as possible with the persons and circumstances of a tale of horror. Nor are people deterred if to the horror is added loathsomeness.

This is a very old story indeed, and it is a subject in which no one can as yet see daylight; but something far more striking has been disclosed by the conduct of the murderer Miller. It is interesting to know what such a cold-blooded brute's idea may be of the peculiar pleasures appropriate to people who have plenty of money. Miller's notion appears to have been, in essence, the same as that of men like Higgs, Robson, Redpath, or Roupell; but there is a grim and ludicrous vulgarity about it which deserves to be signalled. It appears that when he had, by his own benignant devices, come into his property (as he supposed), he immediately took a cab to the Haymarket; that he had an oyster supper, and passed the evening in debauchery. The whole of the next day he spent in travelling about in cabs. It is scarcely possible to help smiling at this. It appears that this inferior animal's notion of heaven was being driven about in a hansom; but there is an unspeakably awful gulf of dread in the thought that a creature in human shape—not much distinguished, perhaps, at the first glance from any decent person you meet in the streets—is capable of killing an aged man and a woman in order that he may go about in cabs.

THE STRONG GOVERNMENT.

It is well to have a giant's strength, says a high authority; but he adds that it is tyrannous to use it like a giant. The ILLUSTRATED TIMES has abundantly shown its pleasure at the strength of Mr. Gladstone's Government; but some people would like to see it a little more polite now and then. Of course, everybody cannot have all virtues, and Mr. Stansfeld and Mr. Forster are model men. Mr. Forster may be a little brusque at times, but he is never for a moment rude; and Mr. Stansfeld is a pattern of good Ministerial manners. Mr. Lowe is beyond the reach of counsel, we fear; but it is a pity that he and Mr. Ayrton

should both be men in whom a peculiar and very useful kind of acuteness seem to have got impacted into it a peculiar and very useless kind of tartness. Mr. Lowe is, however, a humourist, and makes you laugh even when he is taking out your eye teeth; but Mr. Ayrton, though as sharp as a razor, has not the trick which Lady Mary Wortley Montagu attributed to razors—of cutting without hurting. What he said to the deputation on the great dance-music question was doubtful in matter as well as overbearing in manner. In the case of Mr. Barry, we all owe him thanks for looking sharply after the public money; but why could he not do it a little more gracefully? It is the old story—You were not bound to love me, "but why did you kick me down stairs?" It is well that the Government should be strong-handed, but it need not be high-handed as well. "A little more animation, my dear," said Lady Languish to Miss Languish, who was going feebly through a dance with a gentleman. "I'm sure, mamma, I shan't dance my hair out of curl for a married man," said Miss Languish. But, after all, the most valuable and ingratiating kind of courtesy is that for which you get nothing in exchange; and one would like to see men like Mr. Lowe and Mr. Ayrton, even under provocation (and the latter was provoked), practise, if only in the interest of the Government they belong to, that very species of courtesy.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has expressed her intention to give a prize of 1000l. (£40) for the best fan painted or sculptured by a female artist under twenty-five years of age, and exhibited next year. The competition will be international.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has just paid a visit to this country. His Majesty arrived somewhat unexpectedly in his steam-yacht *Marie Henrietta*, at Woolwich, on Sunday.

THE HEALTH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE LEOPOLD appears to have improved during his sojourn at Windsor Castle. The Prince has taken daily drives in the park and in the vicinity of Windsor.

SIR W. MANSFIELD, late Commander-in-Chief in India, is gazetted a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

LORD SKELMERSDALE has become associated with Lord Colville and Viscount Hawarden in conducting the business of the Conservative party in the House of Lords.

MRS. LLOYD, the widow of Mr. E. Lloyd, who was murdered by the Greek brigands, had an audience of the Queen on Tuesday at Windsor Castle.

A BOILER EXPLODED ON WEDNESDAY IN A FLOUR-MILL, in Poolbeg-street, Dublin, killing two labourers and injuring five others, two of whom are not expected to recover. The owner himself is slightly injured.

A COMPANY has been formed, with a proposed capital of £12,000, in shares of £5 each, for the purpose of constructing swimming and other baths at the Crystal Palace.

A MONUMENT TO KING ROBERT THE BRUCE is to be erected on the Field of Bannockburn. An influential committee has been formed in London and in Scotland. The committee are obtaining a design from the veteran artist Mr. George Cruikshank.

MR. G. BROWN, brother-in-law of the late Mr. George Henry Moore, has been elected, without opposition, for the county of Mayo.

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL, on Sunday morning, preached to a crowded congregation in the Surrey Chapel his first sermon since his return from a three months' tour in the Holy Land. The health of the rev. gentleman, which was in a declining state, appears to have been restored. In the afternoon he preached in St. James's Hall.

AN ASSOCIATION on the co-operative principle has been formed at Deptford, to enable its members to emigrate to one of the Western States of America.

THE LONGFORD ELECTION has terminated in the return of the Hon. George Greville, by a majority of 283. The numbers are:—For Mr. Greville, 1217; and for Mr. Harman, 932—giving a total of 2149 votes recorded. The entire constituency is 2815, and at no former contest have the votes given exceeded 2000.

A FIRE broke out in an oilshop, at Kingston, on Tuesday morning, and before adequate assistance could be rendered the son of the proprietor, a lad twelve years of age, was burnt to death.

THE NATURALISATION TREATY between this country and the United States, which has been the subject of negotiation for some time past, has now been signed by Lord Clarendon and Mr. Motley.

A NEW PUBLIC PARK at the north-east end of Liverpool, called the Stanley Park, was opened, on Saturday afternoon, by the Mayor and Corporation. The park contains 100 acres of land, and has been laid out at a cost of about £42,000.

THE YOUNG MAN WHITE, who lately fired a pistol at Mr. C. Buxton, M.P., was charged at Bow-street, on Wednesday, with having attempted to murder the hon. gentleman, and was committed for trial.

THE REV. B. A. FINCH, the Rector of St. Paul's, Deptford, has received a letter from the Brancepeth Colliery Works, Willington, Durham, to the effect that there is a great scarcity of labour in that district, and workmen can have outdoor employment, constant, at 3s. 6d. per day—the demand not being caused by a strike.

THE BRADFORD TOWN COUNCIL, on Tuesday, decided by a large majority to accept the offer of Mr. Samuel Cunliffe Lester to sell them his estate at Warrington Park, consisting of about fifty-four acres of land and the mansion, valued altogether at about £60,000, for the sum of £40,000, for the purpose of forming a second public park for the borough. It is expected that the cost to the Corporation will be reduced by the sale of fourteen acres of the land for building purposes.

M. MERSON, chief editor of the *Union Bretonne*, had a hostile encounter the other evening with the editor of the *Gazette de l'Ouest*, and next morning with the chief director of the *Esperance du Peuple*. The weapon chosen in both instances was the pistol. No blood was shed. M. Merson has now fought twenty-two duels.

AN ARRANGEMENT has been come to between the Government and the delegates from New Zealand, by which Parliament will be asked to guarantee a loan of £1,000,000, to be raised by the colony for the purpose of employing the friendly Maories in road-making and other public works, and for the promotion of immigration.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE NEWSPAPER-PRESS FUND took place, last Saturday, at Willis's Rooms—Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., in the chair. Amongst the speakers were Dr. W. H. Russell, Sir W. Codrington, Lord Houghton, the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Mr. George Godwin, Mr. Anthony Trollope; Mr. Newdegate, M.P.; and Senor Arturo de Marcoriti, a member of the Spanish press.

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE from April 1 to May 14 show that the revenue during that period amounted to £7,499,765, while the issues from the Exchequer represented a sum of £8,887,994. The balance in the Bank of England on May 14 was £6,561,577.

JEREMIAH DACEY, who was convicted at the last sessions of the Central Criminal Court of a robbery with violence, and sentenced by the Common Serjeant to seven years' penal servitude and twenty-five lashes with the "cat," was flogged, on Tuesday, in the gaol of Newgate, in the presence of Mr. Sheriff Paterson, Mr. Under-Sheriff Crossley, the Governor (Mr. E. J. Jones), and Mr. Rowland Gibson, the surgeon.

A BAZAAR for the benefit of the building fund of the North-Eastern Hospital, in the Hackney-road, was on Monday opened at the City Terminus Hotel by Princess Louise. Mr. C. Reed, M.P., presented an address to her Royal Highness, in which, while welcoming the Princess, opportunity was taken for effectually setting forth the claims of the institution upon the charity of the public.

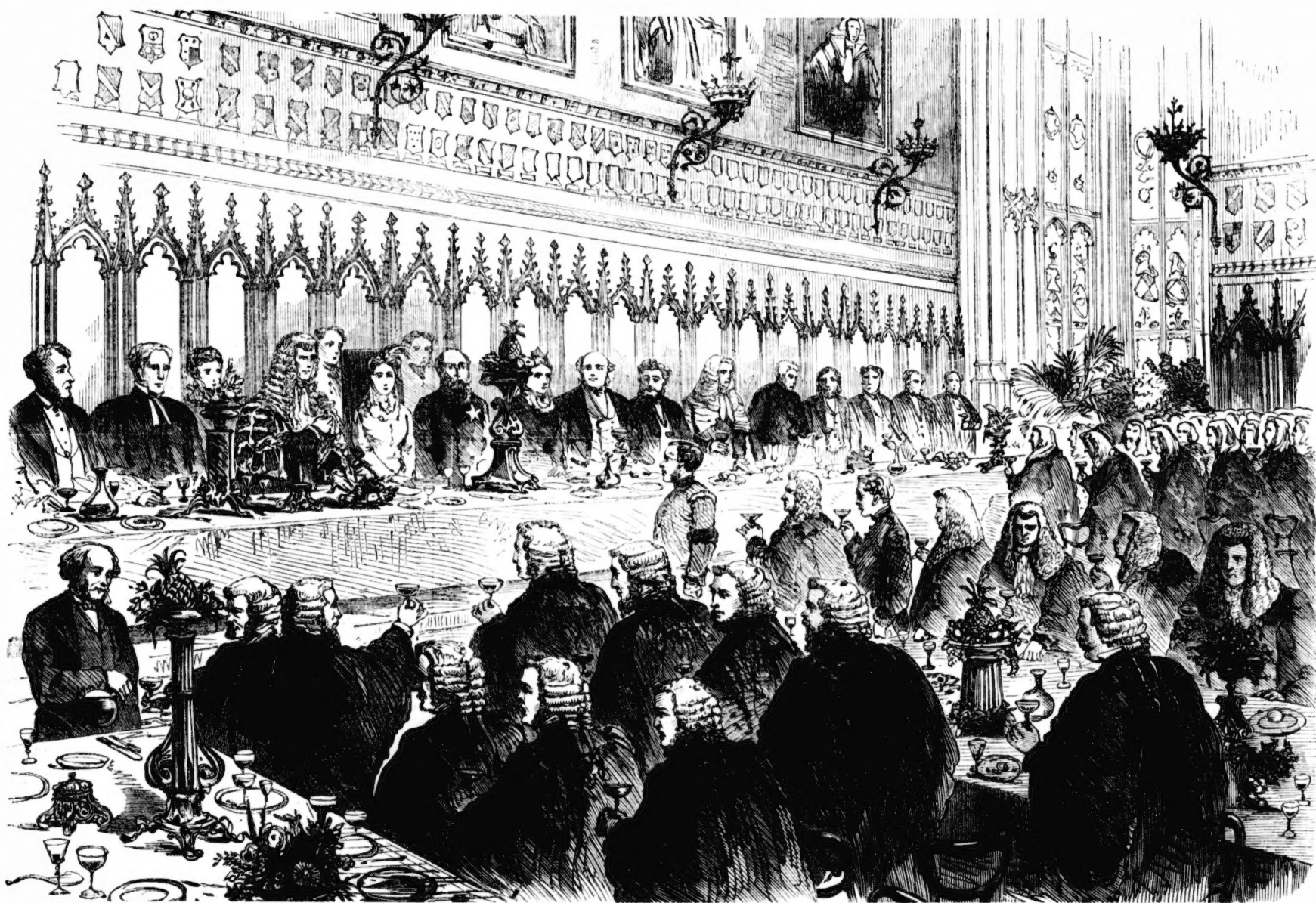
A NEW STREET, extending from High-street, Whitechapel, at its junction with Leman-street, to the entrance of Commercial road, was opened on Saturday by Sir John Thwaites. The total estimated cost of the work is £243,000. A dinner took place in the evening, at which Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Samuda, Sir W. Tite, and Sir John Thwaites were among the speakers.

A WOMAN NAMED GOODWIN, living at Brownedge, near Hanley, last Saturday, cut the throat of her infant, and of her daughter, aged ten, and then cut her own. The elder girl and the mother, it is expected, will recover, but the infant is dead. Mrs. Goodwin was nine years ago under restraint for insanity, but had latterly shown no symptoms of aberration of mind.

LORD HALIFAX presided, on Tuesday, over a meeting in connection with the forthcoming series of annual international exhibitions, explaining that the branches of industry selected for next year's display were pottery, woollen and worsted fabrics, and educational works and appliances. The object of the gathering was to invite co-operation, and to confer upon the best methods of appointing the judges. The regulations suggested by the Commissioners were unanimously approved.



"BARBARIANS BEFORE ROME." — (PICTURE BY LUNNARD.)



PRINCESS LOUISA AMONG THE LAWYERS: LUNCHEON ON OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW INNER TEMPLE HALL.



ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN AT THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

"BARBARIANS BEFORE ROME."

We have already published an Engraving from one of the most important *genre* pictures in the Paris Exhibition, and we are able this week to present our readers with an illustration of the prominent work by which M. Luminais supports his reputation in quite another school and branch of art. Full of fire and vigorous drawing as well as motive, this painting, which is entitled "In View of Rome," is one of the most remarkable in the gallery, if not as an example of colour, at all events as one which relies on its forcible and picturesque handling for a reputation which it can scarcely fail to secure. The aspect of the wild and ferocious companions of Attila is admirably contrasted with the beauty of the distant buildings and splendour of the tokens of civilisation through which they are advancing on the imperial city.

OPENING OF THE NEW INNER TEMPLE HALL.

THE new Hall of the Inner Temple, which has been erected upon the site, or nearly upon the site, of a more ancient structure, between the church and the gardens, was opened, last Saturday, by her Royal Highness Princess Louise. The exact date of the erection of the old hall is unknown, but it is said that the greater part of it was rebuilt in the reign of Edward III., and very few parts of the building just removed could be referred even to that period. The new hall, which covers something more than the space occupied by the pre-existent building, is a handsome edifice both externally and internally; but it is, unfortunately, so closely surrounded, and indeed hemmed in, by other buildings—mere blocks of chambers—that, as seen from the outside, its architectural effect is most seriously interfered with. The style is Perpendicular Gothic. The interior dimensions are 93 ft. by 41 ft. The hall is very lofty, and is well lighted by rows of windows on each side, as well as a great window at the west end, and a large oriel window at the south-eastern angle. The roof is of oak, and is supported by six arches resting on corbels supported by angels bearing shields emblazoned with the Royal arms of England from the time of Elizabeth to the present date. The arches are decorated with carved and gilded pendants. The walls are panelled with oak to the height of about 6 ft. or 8 ft.; and above this are blazoned, in two rows, the arms of the readers who have served the inn. The upper part of the eastern wall is occupied by an allegorical painting, by Sir James Thornhill, representing Pegasus striking with his hoof the mountain of Helicon, from which Hippocrene, the stream of the Muses, issued in response to his blow. Below it are ten full-length portraits, arranged in two rows of five, and containing five Sovereigns and five lawyers. The central figure in the lower row is Lord Thurlow, by J. Phillips, R.A. Above him is Queen Anne, with William and Mary on her right and left, and George II. and Queen Caroline below them. The Royal portraits are all by Kneller. The remaining lawyers are Coke (Vansomer, 1616), Littleton, Sir Martin Wright, and Lord Chancellor Harcourt. The hall is lighted by six sunlights in the roof, and by sixteen crown burners projecting from the walls. Two of the outer entrances are adorned by carved oak doors of venerable antiquity—one of them dated 1575—and both preserved from the former hall. The windows on each side are transomed, and have two tiers of three lights each, which are intended to be filled with stained glass. The upper tiers are to be filled with the effigies of eminent persons connected with the history of the Temple, the central light of each window being occupied by a Sovereign. The lower tier will show the historical events connected with them. One window only is complete, and contains the effigies of Henry I. in the centre, with William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, on each side of him. In the tier below are "The Wreck of the White Ship," "A Combat of Templars and Saracens," and "The Building of the Temple Church." The oriel window is devoted to twenty-two coats of arms of eminent Templars from 1135 to 1818, beginning with Thomas Littleton and ending with Baron Tenterden. At the eastern extremity is a dais, and at the western a screen, over which is a gallery in carved oak. The building was erected by Messrs. Trollope, according to the plans of Mr. S. Smirke, R.A., the architect of the Inner Temple. The heraldic decorations have been carried out by Mr. Bishop, of St. Benet's-hill, and the stained-glass windows will be supplied by Messrs. Clayton and Bell.

Princess Louise, who was accompanied by Prince Christian and attended by Viscount Sydney, Lord Chamberlain, and three or four ladies and gentlemen of the Court, arrived at the southern entrance of the hall, in the terrace between Crown-office-row and Paper-buildings, about half-past one o'clock. At the foot of the staircase there had been erected a temporary dais, or estrade, covered with a striped awning, carpeted with red cloth and adorned with tiers, one might almost say with beds, of full-flowering azaleas and other handsome and effective plants. When the Royal carriages, passing between the lines of a guard of honour, supplied by the Inns of Court Volunteers, which was drawn up in Crown-office-row, reached this dais, it was occupied by Mr. Pickering, Q.C., the treasurer, and the benchers of the Inner Temple, together with the distinguished guests, some members of the Inn and others not, whom they had invited to meet her Royal Highness. It was a quaint and somewhat of an old-world scene. The Judges and professors of the law were all in their old-fashioned wigs and gowns. Ministers and officers of State wore uniforms more modern and still less symbolical of their functions. The gold robes of the Lord Chancellor contrasted vividly with the scarlet and ermine of the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The Church was represented by Dr. Vaughan, the Master of the Temple, in his clerical costume. Lord Chelmsford, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Cardwell, Sir J. S. Jeffrye, and Mr. Headlam were in the uniform of privy councillors. Mr. Bruce and Mr. Goschen wore ordinary morning costume. The members of the Bench were in their gala attire—full bottomed wigs, silk gowns, shorts, silk stockings, and pumps. As soon as she alighted Princess Louise, who was warmly cheered by a pretty numerous crowd, took the arm of Prince Christian, and after a brief delay ascended the staircase which, as well as the adjoining corridor, was profusely decorated with flowers, and passed through the hall to the library. Mr. Pickering, who had to perform the difficult and unwonted task of walking backwards, preceded the Royal guests, while the members of the suite and the distinguished visitors followed them, to be in their turn followed by the general body of the benchers. Her Royal Highness was dressed entirely in blue silk trimmed with white lace. Though unusually pale, and looking, perhaps, a little shy, she appeared to be in excellent health, and seemed a good deal amused by the unwonted spectacle of the great hall filled with learned counsel in their black gowns and white wigs, and unlearned students with gowns, but without wigs, arranged in their places at the tables, which were already spread with an excellent collation. When the library was reached, Mr. Pickering read and presented to the Princess an address; in reply to which her Royal Highness expressed the pleasure which she experienced in representing her Majesty upon this occasion, and in meeting the illustrious Bar of England on the event of the opening of this magnificent building, erected upon a site rich with historic recollection. She thanked them in the name of the Queen for their loyal sentiments towards her throne and family, and also for herself for the manner in which they had welcomed her. After Prince Christian, who had been elected a member of the Bench, had been robed with the professional gown, the Royal party and their attendants returned to the hall, and luncheon was served. When the repast was over, the treasurer, in right of his office, proposed separately the healths of the Queen, Princess Louise, and Prince Christian, all which toasts were enthusiastically received. Prince Christian, in returning thanks for Princess Louise, as well as himself, acknowledged the honour which had been conferred upon him by his election to the Bench, and drank "Prosperity to the Society of the Inner Temple." The Princess then rose, and, having declared the hall opened, retired to the library. As she passed

she shook hands very cordially with the Lord Chancellor and Dr. Vaughan. After an interval of a few minutes the procession returned and passed down the hall, hearty cheers being given for the Princess, who was escorted to the entrance by the treasurer and benchers of the inn, and drove away, amid renewed acclamations from the crowd which had witnessed her arrival and waited for her departure.

THE LOUNGER.

It was lately announced in the *Western Times* that Mr. Seely had, ready forged, a heavy thunderbolt which, when opportunity offered, he would hurl with startling force at the Admiralty. Mr. Seely, I understand, says that this thunderbolt is a myth; but the *Army and Navy Gazette* tells a very strange story of jobbery in the sale of land by the Government at one of the disused dockyards which must be brought before the House; and, if only the half of it should prove to be true, some of our Admiralty officials will have to confess that they have been overreached, whilst other persons may find themselves in a very ugly position. I do not choose to repeat the story; for, though seemingly undeniable facts were given and indisputable documents quoted, the story looks so incredible that I would fain hope that there must be some explanation available, which, if it do not entirely exonerate the parties concerned, will divest the transaction, as it is described in the *Army and Navy Gazette*, of its apparent atrocity.

There has been much questioning lately on the subject of the report of the Commissioners upon Primary Education in Ireland. On Tuesday evening Mr. Vernon Harcourt asked Mr. Gladstone whether the Commissioners had reported against the mixed education in the national schools. Mr. Gladstone "was not aware that the Commissioners had done so. The Commissioners have not certified any of their proceedings." No; but the proceedings may have oozed out uncertified. It is rumoured that they have; and it is added that the Commissioners will recommend the allowance of Catholic denominational schools in places in which there are no Protestants, and Protestant denominational schools in places where there are no Catholics. This report comes to me with an imposing air of authority and backed by strong testimony; but yet I do not believe it, simply because I cannot suppose that persons qualified to be Royal Commissioners would recommend anything so foolish; but, if they have done, or shall do, this, we may be sure that the recommendation will never become law.

Do you remember, Mr. Editor, what shriekings, and denunciations, and prophecies we heard when Mr. Bright gave to the world his land scheme? Well, on Monday last clause 41, to enable Government to advance money to tenants for purchasing holdings, was passed, after only a few hours' discussion, by 114 to 27. It was thought at one time that this revolutionary clause would never be accepted by the House; that all the Conservatives would vote against it, and that all the Liberal landlords would join the Opposition. Then it was said that, foreseeing the stubborn opposition which would confront this clause, Gladstone would cut his bill in two, send the tenure clauses up to the House of Lords in one bill, and postpone the property clauses till next Session. And we all thought that, if he should decide to go on with these clauses, this forty-first clause would be debated many nights. And yet it was passed in this summary way, in a House of 141 members, by a majority of 87. How can such things be? A very shrewd Irishman accounts for it in this way:—"This is as much a landlord's clause as it is a tenant's. If a landlord wishes to sell his land he will, if this clause pass, always be able to find a customer willing to give a good price, and money to pay down at once." And this opinion seems to be confirmed by the division-list; for amongst the twenty-seven gentlemen who voted against this clause there is not a single Irishman, unless you call young Lord Claud John Hamilton, the Duke of Abercorn's son, an Irishman. The Irish Conservatives did not vote for the clause. That could not be expected. They, judiciously, stayed away. It is said that the Lords will certainly throw out this clause; but, after such a division as this, I cannot imagine that they will do so, because obviously the Irish landlords, Conservative and Liberal, are in favour of it. If it had been carried by "the tyrant majority" against "the protesting minority," my Lords might have thought it right to attempt to save the Irish landlords from such tyranny. But will the Lords care to save the Irish landlords from themselves when they are unwilling to be saved? This division is the strongest that I ever saw, or thought to see. There is no possible explanation of it but that of my shrewd Irish friend, which, by-the-way, was a prophecy, for I had this opinion from him several weeks ago.

Scotland, Sir, as you know, and as all readers of Sir Walter Scott know, once boasted of a "Commons' King—King James;" and now France rejoices in a "Peasants' Emperor." The votes of peasants may be as good as those of other men—I don't question that; and they may, moreover, be a very sure foundation on which to rest the structure of power; but, unfortunately, the peasantry of France, like the peasantry of many other countries, are not the portion of the community most capable of judging of great public questions. They are very decidedly "backward in their learning;" their education has been grossly neglected; they are, in fact, very ignorant; and, perhaps as a necessary consequence, they are both easily frightened and easily influenced. Not a few of them, it is asserted, believe that in voting for Napoleon III. they are voting for his uncle, whom they suppose to be still living and ruling France. This is, perhaps, an exaggeration; but it is certain that in the most ignorant portions of France the largest number of "Ayes" were obtained in the late plebiscite. In seventeen of the departments most distinguished for progress in education, 450,071 "Noes" were found in the urns; while in twenty-two departments, most famous for ignorance, only 221,118 "Noes" were cast. From these facts we may infer, first, that the Emperor's best friend in France is ignorance; and, second, that the most effective weapon Liberalism can wield is instruction. That is one thing the plebiscite tells us. Another thing is that the army and navy are no longer the absolute and unquestioning worshippers of the Emperor they once were, and until nearly 50,000 soldiers and over 6000 sailors voted "No" in the plebiscite, they were still believed to be. The Emperor, it was wont to be said, reigned over France "by grace of chass-pots." That is somewhat changed, however; and it seems to me that his Majesty's style and title should henceforth run thus:—Napoleon III., by the grace of ignorance Emperor of the French, &c. Against him are ranged all the great towns (with the sole exception, I believe, of Boulogne); all the centres of intelligence, energy, patriotism, and enterprise are adverse to his rule; the army and navy are doubtful; MM. Buffet, Daru, and Talhouet, the three best members of the Emperor's "Constitutional" Cabinet—the only members thereof, indeed, who could be relied on for honest adherence to Constitutional practices—have retired, "three new Government clerks" being appointed in their stead; the gaols of Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, and other places are crammed with political prisoners; the tribunals daily condemn men in batches for the most frivolous offences and on the flimsiest of evidence; the press is again gagged, and the labours of the Chambers are practically suspended. The intelligent and independent portion of the French people are disgusted; Parliamentary government is in abeyance; order has been endangered; and liberty is—well, nowhere, in France. But, then, the peasants are faithful, though stupid; the "devouring activity" of officials in driving voters to the urns has been effectual; the Emperor has received 7,000,000 approvals of his policy of ruling by plebiscites; M. Olivier is triumphant; M. Rouher and the Arcadians are jubilant! These, as far as I can see, are the main outcomes of the late "appeal to the people." Was it worth while to risk and to undergo so much in order to obtain so little that is worth having?

Will you permit me another word on the pen question? The editor of a respected provincial journal has been so kind as to send

me one of Perry's aluminium pens, an article which, he says, he finds to answer well so far as anti-corrosive qualities are concerned. But it is formed on the model of the gold and silver nibs, and, having no fountain, has a tendency to blot, besides involving frequent dipping in the ink-bottle, and, consequently, great loss of time in writing. My correspondent suggests an expedient for partially overcoming this objection. But why should there be any such difficulty at all? Is there any reason why the aluminium pen should not be constructed with a fountain, and so obviate (by its material) the inconvenience of corrosion and (by its formation) the waste of valuable time caused by frequent journeys of the hand from the paper to the ink-bottle? I commend this question to the consideration of Messrs. Perry and other penmakers, and can assure them that it is of more importance—to journalists and other literary men especially—than they seem to imagine.

An admirably-executed portrait, engraved on steel, of the Right Hon. Earl De Grey and Ripon, the new Grand Master Mason, has just been issued by Tegg, of Pancras-lane, City. This portrait, which measures 12 in. by 15 in., represents the Grand Master wearing the official insignia, and in the act of taking the oath of office. Of course, no Masonic gallery, public or private, will be complete without a copy of this fine engraving.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

I am still unable to make up my mind about "The Legend of Jubal," by George Eliot, in *Macmillan*. There is no doubt whatever about the weight of thought, the profuse poetic suggestion, and the still more remarkable speculative intelligence, to say nothing of the picturesque effect, of these wonderful lines. But all this does not make singing; and the question whether this distinguished writer produces poetry is perhaps the most interesting problem of the higher criticism of English literature of this moment. To pause before receiving these powerful verses as poetry is by no means to be blind to their power and beauty; neither is it a merely fanciful matter, as some people might suppose. There is a certain nameless fusion or unity about poetry which it is hardly possible to mistake, and yet one may well hesitate over "The Legend of Jubal"—and hesitate accordingly. In the same number of *Macmillan* the inexhaustible Mr. Anthony Trollope opens vigorously his new story of "Sir Harry Hotspur of Humblethwaite." I can well understand this number having reached a second edition if only on account of Professor Huxley's paper on Descartes, addressed—save the mark!—to the Cambridge Young Men's Christian Association. Most of us, and, indeed, all who take any interest in the relations of modern metaphysics, have been looking out for a plain word from Professor Huxley as to the path by which he escaped a certain "slough" of which he himself spoke on a former occasion; and this seems to be the plainest word we are at present likely to get on the subject. It is admirably clear and straightforward, and a remarkable example of what has been called Professor Huxley's industry in sweeping his own do-mstep clean.

The *Contemporary Review* is a most interesting number. The purely moral and spiritual portion of the article by Professor Maurice on "Dr. Newman's 'Grammar of Assent'" is as good as all Mr. Maurice writes, and as powerful; but, though I perfectly understand (and vehemently disagree with) Dr. Newman, I cannot make sense of Mr. Maurice as a metaphysical critic. The article on "Nature, Development, and Theology," will easily be referred to its true author; but, though an excellent *precis* or history of opinion on this matter, it does not satisfy the mind. Reason good: the people who are likely to read it attentively will want to have the question begun higher up the stream than this writer begins it. "Thomas Erskine, of Linlathen" is not only a lucid, it is a very luminous article, in which a remarkable man is made the centre of some thinking and writing, which reminded me, I hardly know why, of porcelaine. The fourth article in the number is evidently written by a clergyman, and by a clergyman who has been in the habit of dealing with others *de haut en bas*. It is a curious jumble of inconsistencies mixed up with much very wise and considerate practical comment. It is also very comprehensive. But the author will only produce a sense of strong alienation in those who think that no amount of statistics, however favourable, can justify us in doing evil that good may come. His moral perceptions are curiously wanting in subtlety. Mr. Mill is never hypocritical, and least of all when he is ascetic—he might have been a medieval anchorite, and does not look very much unlike one. To call in question his knowledge of physiology is too good a joke; and if the author of this paper had carefully read the "Political Economy" through, he would have seen that Mr. Mill is quite aware of the by no means reconcilable fact to which one of these comments is addressed. The middle paragraph on page 223 is singularly low in tone. Self-respect is not necessarily connected with innocence; and what would be thought of an Act of Parliament entitled "An Act to promote Self-Respect by outraging it in certain cases?" Unless such an Act could be defended, it follows that laws which have incidentally any such effect are so far objectionable, both on the ground of possible injury to individuals and to public sentiment. The passage about the "liberty of the subject," on page 225, is in the worst style of clerical dogmatism. It may pair off with the statement that Mr. John Morley "has put himself out of court for the discussion of moral questions" by a very simple dictum, which is, to say the least, rhetorically defensible. Nor do I see why this author should object to what Mr. Morley says about the "sentimental treatment of permanently-brutalised natures," when he has the very moment before said that "criminals and vagabonds" should be "made slaves" for their own good. It is a great pity, as Mr. Matthew Browne writes as if he knew the law of England with regard to the "subjection of women," that he did not more emphatically expose the errors of Mr. Mill and the women's advocates in this particular. He might have made out a strong case; but he is by far too offhand a writer, and makes the gravest statements in so rapid and indifferent a manner that all but acute readers may naturally think there is nothing in them.

The *Fortnightly* I have before referred to. Mr. Herbert Spencer comes to the front, with his usual exhaustive ingenuity, upon the question of "The Origin of Animal Worship;" of course following up Mr. McLennan upon Totem Worship. Mr. Mitford's paper, "A Ride through Yedo," is exceedingly interesting, and may be read aloud in the bosom of the family, which is more than can be said of much of the writing about Japan. Of Mr. Swinburne's paper on Mr. D. G. Rossetti's poems I can make nothing. It has the usual falsetto and ballooning (what metaphors!) of Mr. Swinburne's manner, and is such a hash of praise that nearly all sense of discrimination is lost in reading it. Professor Cairnes on "M. Comte and Political Economy" makes a very damaging assault upon M. Comte as a thinker—for the essay has really a much wider sweep than it pretends to. Mr. Keibel on "The Reign of Queen Anne" is very pleasant reading. The translation of a modern Greek poem by the late Mr. Herbert, who was killed by the brigands, I have already referred to. The reply to Mr. Morley by "E. Venturi" is, I think, very much to the point; but there is a half-suppressed accent of pique in it which greatly diminishes its effect, and I really think some of it should have been omitted. We must draw the line somewhere; or, at least, we must resort to periphrases such as are easily at the command of people who know how to write.

"Nicholas's Notes," by the late W. J. Prowse, will be published by Messrs. Routledge in a shilling volume, before the Derby. The book will also contain a few selections from Mr. Prowse's more serious writings, a brief biography by Mr. Tom Hood, and a portrait by Mr. T. Scott.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

It seems somewhat odd that such an excellent actor as Mr. Hermann Vezin should be so frequently out of an engage-

Some years ago Mr. Vezin, sick no doubt of being so long in the Princess's Theatre in order to produce a play by Mr. W. G. Wills called "The Man o' Airlie." Mr. Vezin is evidently very fond of this play, for he has been round the provinces with it, and directly he gets an opportunity he is in London again. The opportunity has come, and "The Man o' Airlie" has been revived at the GLOBE. It was worth the trouble for the sake of Mr. Vezin's acting, but not for the sake of the play. I happen—I suppose, unfortunately—to be a cockney; to not like Scotch plays. The lingo is to me all but unintelligible; and it is laughable to see an English company acting over this incomprehensible and inharmonious language. The sentiments and situations had been Anglicised, the would have been far more popular than it is, or is ever likely to be. Mr. Vezin is, of course, the only actor in the company who affects the audience, notwithstanding the difficulties of the play. He makes the audience in love with the mountain poet, followed one again and again to smell the heather. The love of James Harebell for his wife is painted with freshness and realism; and the great scene, when, after the death of his wife, he receives a testimonial of affection from the good folk of the valley side worked up by Mr. Vezin with genuine effect. That one "If Mary could but have seen this!" makes hot tears start to the eyes of the women and sends a cold shiver down the backs of the men. But all through the third act Mr. Vezin has the whole audience in his grasp. The theatre is absolutely still, and a most happy mad-scene, which might very well have caused a titter, is a triumph for the intelligent artist. An old Scotch servant is well played by Mr. Sinclair; and Mr. Parselle and Miss Erntstone are very fair. The young men are stiff and bad. I am glad to see Miss Hulspeith doing such good work; but I have very pleasant recollections of her at Sadler's Wells. Thinking over many evenings at the theatre, I do not remember for a long time to have seen an audience so affected as by Mr. Vezin's acting in this play. It is a sound and honest work.

The friends of Mr. Corney Grain are likely to work his ruin. Flattered by several drawing-room triumphs, they have persuaded him that he is another John Parry; and so convinced are they that he will step into the shoes of one of the first of English artists, that they have actually sent him on to John Parry's stage at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, and consider he is justified in giving "The School Feast" in the very same set scene which is redolent of "Mrs. Roseleaf," "The Wedding Breakfast," and some of the greatest treats I have ever experienced. Said a friend to me, coming out, "It is like the ghost of John Parry!" and this was just criticism. Mr. Grain is a mild shadow of our old friend—a John Parry without his art, his piano-forte-playing, or his incomparable humour. Mr. Grain must not complain that these comparisons are instituted. Indeed, he has instituted them himself by sitting down on John Parry's stool. And what is "The School Feast"? Well, to my mind, the coolest imitation of Mr. Parry's entertainment that could be given. The Squire is Colonel Roseleaf; the short-sighted but good Mr. Yennay; the fast young lady is Miss Gushington. Indeed, Mr. Grain is the ghost of John Parry, and "The School Feast" a copy of a hundred similar scenes in which Mr. Parry has delighted us. Do not let anyone imagine that Mr. Grain is not a clever and versatile young fellow. But he is an imitator, and Mr. Toole and Mr. Dillon Croker are imitators. What would be thought of Mr. Croker if he took the Olympic and played "The Porter's Knot" à la Robson, or went on the stage to play the Grave-digger in "Hamlet" with Mr. Widdicombe's squeak? Why, he would be laughed at, if not scolded; and yet, on the strength of clever imitations of John Parry in London drawing-rooms, Mr. Grain is persuaded to appear at the Gallery of Illustration as an original entertainer. Common respect for a great genius should have suggested an apology in the programme for Mr. Grain's plagiarism. If a dramatic author translates a French play without acknowledging it, or a writer quotes other men's sentiments without using inverted commas, they are justly criticised with severity; but the friends of Mr. Corney Grain are content to show extravagant enthusiasm when he reminds them—but, oh! how distantly—of a very great man.

New comedies are announced for Saturday at the CHAMBER CROSS and STRAND, written by Mr. Dilley and Mr. George Neville respectively.

On Monday Miss Bateman appears at the OLYMPIC in "Mary Warner."

Another version of "Frou-Frou" is in rehearsal at the ST. JAMES'S. This, I believe, is one of the American versions.

Miss Caroline Hill is playing Ellen Petworth in "Barwise's Box," during the indisposition of Miss Madge Robertson.

THE ST. GOTHARD RAILWAY.—The North German Government have given permission of the Federal Parliament to accede to the Swiss-Italian treaty, of October 15, 1890, relative to the laying down of an underground railway through Mount St. Gothard. In this treaty the expense of tunnelling the vast ridge of the Central Alps is partitioned out between the various States which, from their geographical position, are to derive the principal benefit from the construction of the line. Of the 20,000,000, put down in the account of Germany, the Northern Confederacy intend to pay one half, leaving the other to be defrayed by the Southern States, still more interested than themselves in the enterprise. Probably a portion of the money will be refunded to the Federal Exchequer by some Italian railway companies, whose traffic will be considerably increased from the facilities the new line will afford for the conveyance of coal and iron to Italy.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE BOMBAY AND ONEIDA.—According to the New York papers the printed report of the inquiry made by the United States Naval Court at Yokohama into the loss of the Oneida, by collision with the Bombay, has been received at Washington. The finding is that the accident was entirely due to the latter vessel. With regard to that followed, the report says:—"The Bombay, in not communicating with the Oneida, in disregarding the loud hails of the executive officers of the Oneida; in disregarding the signal of her steam-whistle, which was blowing until the Oneida sank; and finally in not hearing, or, if she heard, in not replying to the three or four heavy signal guns fired from the Oneida, although they were distinctly heard in Yokohama, at a distance of over nine miles, is so guilty and blamable that this Court can only speak of it as unparalleled in cruelty." Some official correspondence respecting the collision has been laid before our own Parliament. In a note from the Board of Trade to the Foreign Office Mr. Shaw Lefevre says the board is of opinion that not only was the conclusion of the English court at Yokohama concerning Captain Eyre's conduct after the collision justified by the evidence, but that the sentence of six months' suspension pronounced by that Court is "inadequate to the gravity of the offence." The board does not consider it would be justified in instituting criminal proceedings against Captain Eyre, but says that, as the navy department of the United States is of opinion that no blame is attached to the officers of the Oneida for the collision, and that the disaster occurred through the bad navigation of the Bombay, it is open to that Government, or to those who have suffered loss by the deaths of relatives, to raise the question by a suit for damages against the owners of the Bombay.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE AGENCIES.—We understand that the Treasury have decided to recommend Parliament to grant to the Foreign Office clerks who at present act as agents an annual compensation calculated at two thirds of their average profits during the last three years, such annuity to continue to each during his service in the Foreign Office, unless promoted to the office of permanent secretary. If this report be correct, the gentlemen in question are to be congratulated on the luck which gives them a permanent annuity for the loss of non-official work, when so many other public servants have lost official posts without compensation of any sort. It is now some time since Parliament decided that such private profits were incompatible with the service of the country, and it was believed that the Government could not recognise the past enjoyment as a claim to compensation from the State. It was also very reasonable to think that as the four gentlemen who happened to have undertaken the private agency business did not pretend to hold it as a monopoly, and the rules of the Foreign Office allowed every clerk whomsoever, to say nothing of everyone outside the office, to enter into competition for the Government, it was too precarious to be worth in the market more than two or three years' purchase. With some such sum, indeed, it is probable that the gentlemen in question might have been well contented, and the public would not have grudged a liberality so limited, even if not strictly due. An annuity for life of two thirds of the profits is the highest rate of compensation given on the abolition of an official, permanent, and exclusive appointment; and why it should be bestowed on a mere withdrawal of permission to undertake a private business, a precarious, and open trade, is a question which it may be rather difficult for Mr. Gladstone to make clear to the House of Commons. *Full Mail Gazette.*

Literature.

The Poetical Works of John Dryden. With a Memoir, Revised Text, and Notes, by W. D. CHRISTIE, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. Globe Edition. London: Macmillan and Co.

The two great points to be looked at in a re-issue of an English classic, as are unquestionably the works of "Glorious John," are the accuracy of the text and the completeness and fairness of the accompanying memoir; and in both respects Mr. Christie has in his new edition of Dryden left us little, if anything, to hope for in the way of improvement, or to deprecate in the way of omission or commission. With the text he has taken especial pains, and has not only corrected a host of undesigned corruptions, but has, in many instances, restored the true readings where they had been spoiled by over-zealous emendators—a race who, though actuated by the best intentions, have contributed not a little to obscure the meaning of our early poets, from Chaucer downwards. Mr. Christie points out numerous instances of this last disservice editors have done to Dryden; but two specimens will suffice as illustrations of the bathos that has resulted from the emendating process. An old word, *dop*, is not to be found in any of the previous edited editions, *pop* having usurped its place. It is, however, thus patly used by Dryden, in his epilogue to Banks's play, "The Unhappy Favourite":—

We act by fits and starts, like drowning men,
But just peep up, and then drop down again.

A very decided dropping down into bathos being brought about by the change of a single letter. Our other illustration requires a little more explanation. Mr. Christie says:—"The spelling adopted in this edition is generally modern spelling, but there are instances in which the spelling of Dryden's time is preserved, not only where it is needed for rhyme or metre but also where the old spelling is recommended by etymological considerations, and where it is not altogether strange and repulsive:—*shipwrack*, *interested*, *thrid*, *justle*, *just for joust*, are a few such instances. *Just* reminds me of another striking instance of corruption of text by the change of a single letter. The universal joy of Athens, when filled for the great combat between Palamon and Arcite, is described by Dryden in glowing language:—"Twas justing all the day and love at night." All previous editors turn *justing* into *jesting*, and effectually spoil the line.

So much as regards Mr. Christie's labours in revising—and he cites dozens of cases of corruption, accidental or designed, which he has detected, and the correct reading of which he has restored. A word or two now as to the memoir. Memoir-writing in connection with the fathers of English literature is no easy matter, for it is singular how little we know of their lives and conversation—from the days of Chaucer to those of Dryden, at all events. Contemporary biographical writing practically began with Boswell, and had certainly a fine subject in Johnson, whose sage deliverances we are all rejoiced to have had recorded for our edification, however slightly we may esteem the recorder, save as a most faithful reporter. But if Chaucer, Shakespeare, Beaumont and Fletcher, "Rare Ben," Spenser, Milton, Dryden, and a host of lesser though still bright stars in the literary firmament, each had had his Boswell, what a world of "good things" might we not have hoped to enjoy! for of a surety every one of them must have uttered very pretty jests and exceedingly wise sayings in their time. As it is, the biographies of these worthies belongs more to the region of conjecture than of fact, the dates of the publication of their principal works being often the main elements out of which memoirs have to be constructed. It is with Dryden as with his predecessors. He is said to have done this, it is conjectured that he did that, it is probable that he acted in such or such a manner. This is the mode of writing adopted, and no doubt wisely adopted, by the biographers of "glorious John"; and Mr. Christie observes that, in spite of all research, the deficiency of information about Dryden is still remarkable, and "the names and dates and order of his publications make a large portion of his biography." Yet Dryden was Poet Laureate and Historiographer Royal; he was Fellow of the Royal Society; he was a popular dramatist; he was the supreme object of jealousy to the literary hacks of his day, just as Pope was to Grub-street scribblers forty years later; his name for a long period was constantly before the public, the works produced in his old age were even more heartily welcomed than those produced in middle life, and when he died he had a "splendid funeral," and was followed by a hundred carriages to his fitting resting-place in Poet's Corner. The conspicuous position occupied by Dryden, if contrasted with the paucity of our information about him, proves, as in the earlier instances we have mentioned, that what Lord Macaulay calls the "Lues Boswelliana" is a complaint of modern growth. In these latter times we are nauseated with the most minute and trivial details in the lives of illustrious persons, and even in the lives of persons who are not by any means illustrious; while we are tantalised with meagre hints regarding men of whom we would gladly know every particular. This must be as vexatious to the honest biographer as it is to the reader; but in the particular instance before us there is this consolation, that Mr. Christie has spared neither time nor labour in collecting and sifting all that is known or has been asserted about Dryden, and it may therefore be safely said that the latest biography of the poet is also the best.

A Queen's Death, and other Poems. By GEORGE SMITH. London: Longmans and Co.

This little volume, which consists in part of poems that have already appeared in *Fraser*, *Macmillan*, and other magazines, is dedicated to Mr. Gladstone. It is so far like most first volumes of verse by young men that it furnishes no decisive clue to the future fortunes of the singer; and, indeed, it supplies scarcely any clue at all. The writing is distinguished from that of a good many first volumes by two characteristics: its uniform neatness and the fact that it nearly always carries with it a burden of moral or spiritual feeling. This, in our opinion, weighs down the poetry, and is the least favourable symptom in the volume. We would rather have seen a good many florid faults than such uniform sobriety of manner, and such a steady knack of keeping the rails. In fact, we can form no opinion whatever of the future of Mr. George Smith as a poet. Everything depends upon the author's age, opportunities, and culture. If the two latter have been favourable, and if he has passed his majority, our verdict would be a very hesitating one. But there can be no doubt of the poetic feeling which warms the workmanship, and of the height at which the author has pitched the key-note of his writing. That the reader may have some chance of tasting for himself, we give a few lines from "Angelo and Raffaele":—

'Tis thus men find despair instead of hope
In all the high examples of the past.
But what is all this boasted talk of greatness?
As if the times did not call every man
To greatness, be he famous or obscure?
True greatness ranks by duty, not by fortune;
Its sphere is human hearts, its fountain love;
And he is greatest who doth live the best.
This is the sum of all: like potter's clay,
This design'd for kindly, that for peasant use,
So is the man, now for a loftier end,
Now for a lowlier, but never base.

An hour ago,
And I was sadden'd in my inmost heart,
For fear one were not made for noble use;
The pitiless rains, too, brought me discontent,
And weeping Nature made me weep with her;
But now the sun comes forth with glorious beams,
Strikes on the canvas, and lights up the room
With April gold: I take the augury;
Dim shadows flee; in yon far distance stands
Honour enveloped in a flood of light;
In her right hand she holds the promised bays
For him who fights with ignorance and wrong,

And comes off victor from the battle-field:
Push on, and let us make the laurel ours.

We must say we like this; and we believe the reader will like it also.

Our Domestic Fireplaces. By FREDERICK EDWARDS, JUN. London: Longmans and Co.

Mr. Edwards's book on "Our Domestic Fireplaces" has already been noticed in our columns, so we need only say now that this is a new edition, entirely rewritten and enlarged, the additions completing the author's contributions on the domestic use of fuel and on ventilation. The book contains many valuable hints both on house-construction and on household management.

CASSELL'S EDUCATIONAL SERIES.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. have long been conspicuous as caterers of educational works, and among the volumes issued by them are several deserving of special notice. Though unable to spare room to mention every member of the series, we may note three now before us. These are:—1. "The Girl's First Reader for Elementary Schools," Standard II., containing spelling exercises in words of two syllables, and neatly illustrated. 2. "The Use of Plants in Food, Arts, and Commerce," by Ellis A. Davidson, which is really an able and exhaustive little treatise on economic botany. 3. "The Animal Kingdom: an Elementary Text-Book on Zoology," by the same author, is cleverly written and carefully illustrated by drawings made from nature. We can cordially recommend all three of these books for use in schools and in private tuition.

In this connection we may mention the appearance of vol. v. of the new and revised edition of Cassell's "Popular Educator: a Complete Encyclopedia of Elementary, Advanced, and Technical Education;" and, as also educational, though in a different sense, perhaps, and embracing a wider range of topics, volume i. of "Cassell's Household Guide: a Complete Encyclopedia of Domestic and Social Economy, and forming a Guide to Every Department of Practical Life." These are, indeed, comprehensive works, especially the last named, which treats of cookery, domestic medicine, house furnishing and management, the treatment of animals kept for pleasure, home amusements, gardening, and a host of other topics; and cannot fail of being exceedingly useful to both pater and mater familias, and, indeed, to everyone having a share in the conduct of a household.

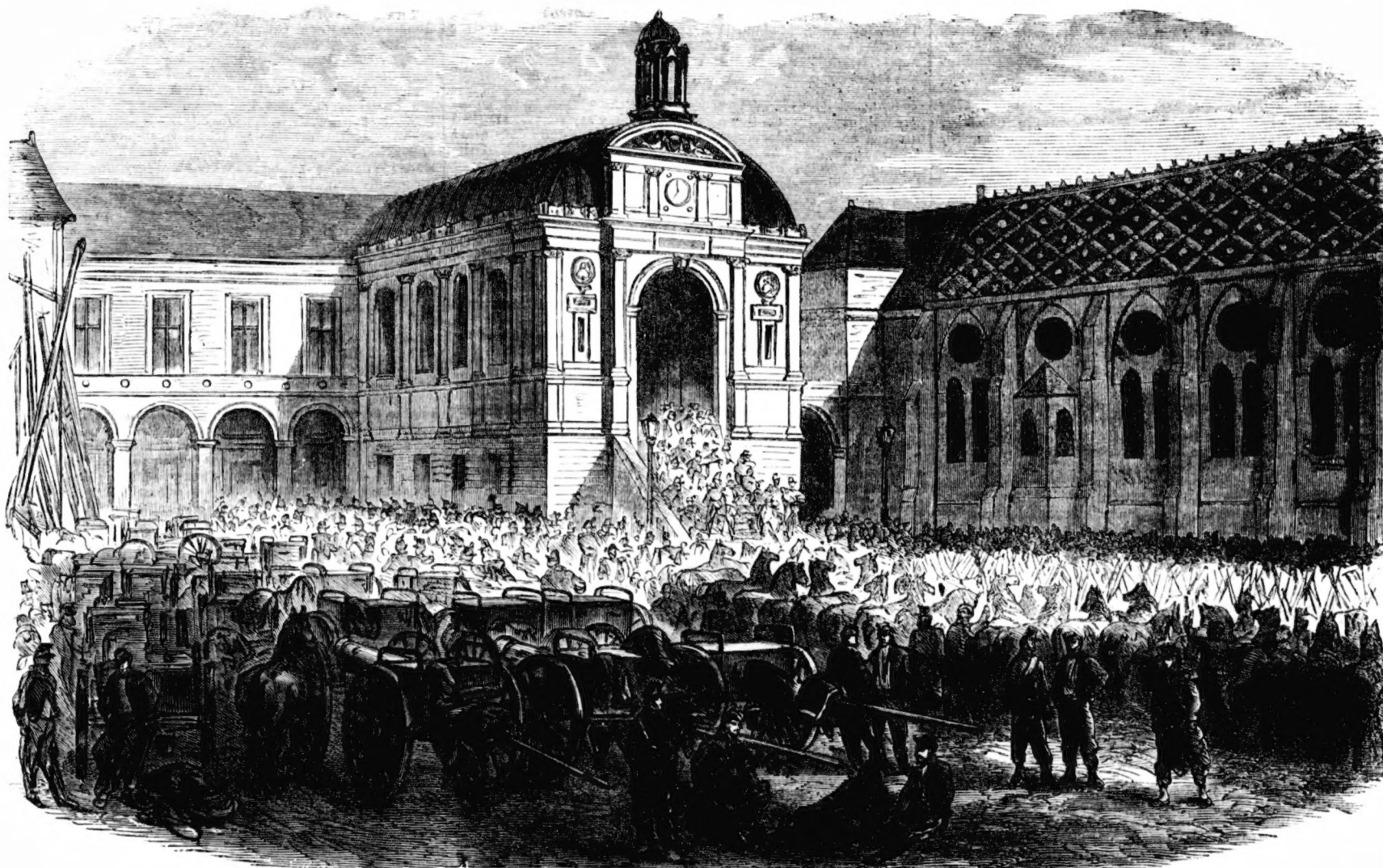
THE COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF GUNPOWDER AND GUN-COTTON.

LAST Saturday a number of experiments were performed by the Royal Engineers at Chatham to test the comparative effects of gunpowder and gun-cotton in various operations. They began at noon and lasted for some hours. The experiments were under the direction of Colonel W. O. Lennox, C.B., V.C., Instructor in Field Fortifications at the School of Military Engineering, who was assisted by a number of officers. There was a large muster of officers of the garrison, besides those of the Engineer Corps, and among those present were Major-General J. L. Brownrigg, C.B.; the commandant of the garrison; Colonel Wray; Colonel Graham, C.B., V.C.; Colonel Fisher; Colonel Lovell, commanding Royal Engineers; Colonel the Hon. H. F. Keane, Deputy Adjutant-General Royal Engineers; Colonel Clarke, &c. Mr. F. A. Abel, chemist to the War Department, was also present, and assisted in some of the experiments with gun-cotton. There were a number of officers and other visitors from London, &c. The experiments commenced with explosions of gunpowder and gun-cotton directed against a double stockade of bales of timber, 14 in. square, 3 ft. 6 in. apart, and sunk 3 ft. in the earth, each line braced together by strong cross-pieces. A charge of 200 lb. of gunpowder, in bags, merely laid at the foot of the stockade, uncompressed, was first exploded. It forced a large gap in the front stockade; but, though partially shattered, the second row of timber would have presented a formidable obstacle to an attacking party, if defended by a few resolute men. Portions of the timber were hurled through the air to some distance. A charge of 80 lb. of gun-cotton was next laid in bags at the foot of the stockade, some distance from the former explosion. This also was untouched. It was fired by a detonating fuse. There was a terrific explosion, and an almost perfectly clear breach was made through both rows of timber, practicable for an attacking party to get through. The effect was very much superior to that of the 200 lb. of gunpowder. Immense pieces of timber were hurled through the air to a great distance, mostly in the rear of the stockade. Not so wide an extent of timber appeared to be shaken as by the first explosion, but the work was more completely done—the results, indeed, were extraordinary. Experiments were then made in another part of the field by exploding discs of gun-cotton against single bales of timber, to show what effect would be produced if timber bridges had to be destroyed. Four bales of timber, about 16 in. square, were sunk in the ground some feet apart, in a square, and braced together by thick pieces of plank. A "necklace" of small discs of gun-cotton was formed, sixty-eight and a half in number; this was doubled and placed half round one of the timbers. The explosion of this string of discs tore away the wood for some depth, 4 in. or more on one side of the bale, but did not break it, though the massive timber was much rent. Three or four larger discs were then exploded on one side of the timber, and tore out a large portion of the wood. A single "necklace" of small discs, sixty-five in number, and weighing 21 lb., was then placed round another bale, quite encircling it. When exploded this tore out the wood all round to some depth. Then twelve of the larger discs, weighing 4 lb. 2 oz., were hung on nails on three sides of the timber and exploded. The explosion was very powerful, and the large bale was cut in two—snapped off where the gun-cotton had been attached, but falling on the side where there had been no discs and partially splitting on that side. The spectators cheered at this decisive proof of the value of gun-cotton for this special purpose. All these experiments appeared to be very satisfactory. At that part of the lines in front of St. Mary's Barracks, a number of mines and galleries had been excavated and charged with gunpowder or gun-cotton. One mine had a charge of 500 lb. of gunpowder; a second similar mine was charged with 200 lb. of gun-cotton. Two smaller mines were charged respectively with 21 lb. of gunpowder and 8 lb. of gun-cotton. These mines were successively exploded by means of an electric current. In the larger mines the powder appeared to be the most effective agent. In the explosion of the 200 lb. charge of gun-cotton a peculiar effect was produced—first, there was the eruption of brown clay and smoke, and then a large flame, produced by the ignition of the gaseous products of the explosion. The officers then proceeded to the old Engineer Depot, near St. Mary's convict prison, and walls which are to be removed were experimented upon; they are 18 in. thick. Charges of gun-cotton ranging from 2½ lb. to 3½ lb. were exploded against these walls with satisfactory results, making breaches in them. The officers then returned to the scene of the mines, where two long galleries had been prepared, one charged with 240 lb. of gunpowder, the other with 96 lb. of gun-cotton. These charges were exploded. The object was to ascertain if it is practicable to form trenches in this manner, instead of throwing them up while exposed to the enemy. It was thought by some officers that the explosion would throw the earth up on each side in such a manner as to form a trench; but the result was not so—the earth was thrown up in a mass, and no trench was formed in which men could get under cover at once.

HOW CLEVER!—The Home Secretary is very clever. No one in the world but Mr. Bruce would have fixed June 1 as the day on which all the London cabs are to be inspected. June 1 is, as everyone but Mr. Bruce is aware, the Derby Day, and at least half the hansom will be at Epsom. No one can suppose that they will forego the profits of the most lucrative day in the year to meet the curious fancies of the great cab reformer.—*Globe.*



THE PLEBISCITE IN PARIS: AN ELECTORAL OFFICE IN THE MILITARY SCHOOL. SEE PAGE 331.



THE PLEBISCITE IN PARIS: ARTILLERY IN THE COURTYARD OF THE CONSERVATORY OF ARTS AND METIERS.—SEE PAGE 324.

EMIGRATION TO VENEZUELA.

A PRETTY story is told in a despatch from the Governor of Trinidad to Earl Granville, just published, in which are reported "the unfortunate results of emigration to Venezuela, in connection with the Chartered American, English, and Venezuelan Trading and Commercial Company," whose office is at No. 3, the Crescent, America-square, London, E.C. It appears that a small number of Englishmen had been sent out by the company in a condition and under circumstances which are described by the Hon. A. Gordon in these words:—"Almost utterly destitute, to an unhealthy locality on the Caura River, which, though wholly unimproved, not a tree having been cut, or a swamp drained, or a hut built on it, had been sold by the company to the emigrants

at the price of £4 per ten acres; £4 being the market price in Venezuela for three square miles of land"—that is to say, for 1200 acres. So the emigrants were charged nearly two hundred-fold the real value of the land. This is pretty well for a start. The President of the Republic of Guayana charitably provided these poor emigrants with three months' provisions, forwarded them to the settlement they had bought, and in other ways assisted them. When the emigrants reached the "township" they found it was a dense uncleared tropical forest, liable in many places to be overflowed by the river during the wet season. Exposure to the sun in that humid climate produced the natural results of dysentery and fever. The gentlemen who had been charged by the President to assist the emigrants left; but for some days before the departure

of their guides the settlers had no food but beans and rice. Those articles rapidly diminishing, "starvation stared them in the face." It is, therefore, not surprising to find the President of Guayana begging of the Governor of Trinidad to assist him in taking steps "to prevent any further immigration under similar auspices."

To promote this scheme the company caused to be published under their authority two hand-books for emigrants, in which, among other alluring intelligence, intending settlers were informed that "the company has made arrangements with the following eminent manufacturers of agricultural implements, &c., to supply emigrants with every description at wholesale prices, viz.—Cottam and Cottam, St. Pancras Ironworks, Old St. Pancras-road, London; Ransomes and Sims, Ipswich; J. and J. Howard, Bed-



SOLDIERS AT THE LUXEMBOURG ON MAY 8, "READY TO PRESERVE ORDER."—SEE PAGE 324.

ford," and others. No tools of any kind were, however, supplied. At this uncleaned, fever-breeding semi-forest swamp, there were only about sixty-five people, when three of the more fortunate escaped to Trinidad. But, to give an appearance of stability and respectability to the undertaking, one of the emigrant manuals set forth that a lady named had been very active in soliciting subscriptions and donations for a "free library" for her settlement on the "Caroni Venezuela." Among the subscribers are:—The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, a grant of books and tracts, and books for the Sunday School children; a few Common Prayer-Books in Spanish for the use of 100,000 emigrants from the Southern States of America, now settling at Caroni; the Lord Bishop of Barbadoes, a case of books; the Rev. Canon Dale, of St. Paul's, &c. Mr. Gordon concludes his despatch by observing:—"President Dalla Costa will, I am certain, do all in his power to alleviate the distresses of the unfortunate settlers who have already arrived, but, as it is very probable that the sale of these lands continues, and will continue so long as purchasers can be found, and, as it is desirable that persons in England should not be induced to take so serious a step as that of emigrating to the Orinoco in consequence of anticipations not, I fear, likely to be realised, I should be much obliged if your Lordship would give such publicity to this despatch and its inclosures as your Lordship may deem proper."

OBITUARY.

THE DEAN OF ROCHESTER.—The Very Rev. Thomas Dale, the newly-appointed Dean of Rochester, died suddenly last Saturday night. The deceased dignitary, who was familiarly known in London as Canon Dale, was born Aug. 22, 1797, and was consequently in the seventy-third year of his age. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, and at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Having written "The Widow of Nain" when he was only twenty-one, he continued to maintain himself at college by his pen until he graduated, and was ordained in 1822. For some years he instructed pupils as a private tutor, and in 1828 he was appointed Professor of the English Language and Literature at the London University—an office which he resigned in 1830; and he filled the corresponding chair in King's College from 1836 to 1839. In 1835 he was appointed Vicar of St. Bride's, and eight years afterwards he was appointed a Canon of St. Paul's, having been indebted to Sir Robert Peel for both preferments. He exchanged St. Bride's for St. Pancras in 1846, and in 1857 resigned the latter benefice for the Rectory of Therfield, Hants. It was only three or four weeks since he was installed as Dean of Rochester. The works of the very rev. gentleman are numerous and popular, and consist of poems, sermons, and translations in prose and verse. His death was publicly announced on Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Parry Liddon, his successor as Canon of St. Paul's, who, in the course of a very eloquent sermon, paid a high tribute of respect to the memory of the late Dean, who had been for upwards of thirty years a Canon in the cathedral.

LADY AUCKLAND.—Lady Auckland, whose husband lately succeeded to the title of Baron Auckland, on the death of the late Bishop of Bath and Wells, died at Carr House, Doncaster, on Wednesday afternoon. The deceased lady was the eldest daughter of Mr. John Wallbank Childers, of Cantley, niece to Viscount Halifax, and cousin to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

GENERAL GOYON.—General Count de Goyon, a senator, once Commander-in-Chief of the French army of occupation of Rome, died suddenly, in Paris, on Tuesday. He was passing along the Rue de Bac, in his carriage, when, feeling ill, he called to the coachman to stop, and got out. He was carried to the nearest chemist's shop, and when laid down was found to be dead.

MR. BRIGHT.—We are in a position to state that the absurd rumours which have been circulated about Mr. Bright's health are entirely without foundation. The right hon. gentleman is making rapid and satisfactory progress towards recovery; and, but for the undesirability of taxing too soon a newly-acquired strength, would probably be able to resume his official and Parliamentary duties during the present Session. —*Daily News.*

COMPLETION OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Decisive action has been resolved upon to resume the completion of Wren's magnificent, but unfinished, chief-d'œuvre, St. Paul's Cathedral. An influential conference has been held in the Chapter House, attended by the Dean, the Archdeacon of London, Canons Gregory and Liddon, Lord John Manners, Sir Stephen Glynne; Mr. S. Smirke, R.A.; Mr. George Gilbert Scott, R.A.; Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P.; Mr. Murray, Mr. Longman, the Rev. W. Scott, Mr. Penrose, &c., at which a sub-committee was appointed to prepare a public statement, and a general feeling was expressed that this great work ought to be actively promoted as a matter of national interest and importance.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—The official report on the Suez Canal, by Captain Richards, hydrographer to the Admiralty, and Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, director of engineering and architectural works to the Admiralty, was issued on Wednesday. The conclusions come to are as follow:—1. That for a certain class of vessels this great work, which must always be a monument of persevering energy and engineering skill, as it now stands, is a convenient mode of passage from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea; 2. that it will be so to a greater extent when the works contemplated—viz., the deepening of certain shallow parts, the enlargement of the "gates," and the widening and improvement of the curves—are carried out; 3. that it is available for the transit of ships employed in the Eastern seas, with the exception of the large ironclads and other exceptionally heavy vessels; 4. that for the present type of Indian transports it is not a desirable route; 5. further, we think that the cost of maintenance will not exceed the amount estimated for it when the work was first projected.

BELFAST WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE.—The greatest procession which has ever been witnessed in Ulster passed through the streets of Belfast last Saturday afternoon, in connection with the laying of the foundation-stone of the Belfast Working Men's Institute. Friendly and trade societies of all denominations took part in the proceedings, and numerous bands, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, played upon the march. The proceedings were most harmonious and highly creditable to the working men of Belfast and its neighbourhood. The institute is to cost £6000. The foundation-stone was laid by Miss Charters, daughter of the largest contributor. The Mayor of Belfast presided, and addresses were delivered by Dr. Henry, President of the Queen's College; Mr. John Lytle, J.P.; Mr. Thomas Gaffikin, honorary secretary of the institute; Mr. Wm. Kirkpatrick, a working man; Professor Wyville Thomson, Mr. Wm. M. Scott, and Mr. Wm. Johnston, M.P., who addressed the immense assemblage as the representative of the working classes. Belfast wore quite a holiday appearance all the afternoon.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT AT THE NEW GASWORKS NEAR BARKING.—Early on Monday morning one of the men engaged at the New Gasworks near Barking went down a well to measure the depth of water. It appears that the well was used for the purpose of draining the land, and before he had been down long he was suddenly seen by those above to stagger and fall. One of his companions instantly went to his rescue, but the poor fellow shared the same fate. Undeterred by this, a third, fourth, fifth, and sixth went down, but only with the same sad results, they all falling victims to the foul air contained in the well. After a short time another man was lowered, and succeeded in bringing them up, but was himself much exhausted. Dr. John Vance was immediately in attendance, and, after four hours' laborious work, succeeded in recovering two of the seven. The names of those dead are—John Phillips, aged thirty-six, who has left a wife and five children; John Brooks, twenty-seven, a wife and child; John Whaling, twenty-nine, a wife and child; Daniel Field, twenty-eight, a wife, no family; and Richard Williams, twenty-five, single.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A COUSIN OF MR. GLADSTONE.—A lamentable accident has occurred at Terang, by which Mr. Robert C. Gladstone, a cousin of the Premier of England, lost his life. Mr. Gladstone was riding a young horse in the township of Terang, near the residence of the Hon. Neil Black, with whom he was connected by relationship; and when near the cricket-ground was observed by a Mr. Rees, a resident in the township, to apparently be unable to control the horse. Whether this was the case or not, Mr. Gladstone was either thrown off or jumped off the horse, and so fell on the ground, on his back, retaining a hold of the reins. The animal plunged about, and either trampled upon or kicked him in the chest and stomach. It will be seen that severe injuries had been received, and medical aid was at once procured. Nothing could be done, however, to save the patient's life; and, after lingering for two days, Mr. Gladstone died—the immediate cause of death, as certified to by the medical men, being rupture of the liver. The deceased gentleman was a young man of a genial and engaging disposition, and held the good-will of every person with whom he had been brought in contact. His remains were followed to the burying-place, the Terang Cemetery, by a large number of the residents of the district; and the tradespeople of Terang showed their respect to the deceased by closing all their places of business. —*Melbourne Argus,* March 28.

MUSIC.

"LA SONNAMBULA" was produced at Covent Garden on Thursday week, Madame Patti appearing as Amina and Herr Wachtel as Elvino. The performance gave no occasion for comment; but this cannot be said with regard to "La Favorita," on the following evening. Signor Mario has long been noted for the power of his acting in the part of Fernando, especially in the scene where the cheated lover repudiates the woman to whom he has been united. On this occasion, we may say that he excelled himself, and elicited a storm of applause such as one rarely hears within the walls of an opera house. Madame Lucca played the unhappy heroine with all her customary effect; and Signor Graziani did good service as the treacherous King. "Marta" was given on Tuesday, with Madame Patti as Lady Enrichetta, Mdle. Scalchi as Nancy, Signor Urio as Lionello, and Signor Graziani as Plumkett. Madame Patti made her old points, one after the other, with the success that always attends them. Of course, her "Last Rose of Summer" obtained a tumultuous encore. Signor Urio, a new tenor of some quality, had to repeat "M'appari;" and Signor Graziani twice gave the song in praise of beer. The band and chorus, under Signor Vianesi, continue to do well. On Thursday the opera was "L'Africaine," with Madame Lucca in her original part; and to-night Mdle. Sessi appears in "Hamlet" for the first time.

The novelties Weber's "Abu Hassan" and Mozart's "L'Oca del Cairo" were produced at Drury Lane on Thursday week, and gave general satisfaction by reason of their charming music and their capital performance. The artists engaged in "Abu Hassan" were Madame Trebelli (Hassan), Madame Monbelli (Fatima), and Signor Castelli (Omar). These excellent performers did all that was possible for Weber's little work, and largely helped towards its favourable reception. As regards the story, we need only mention that it follows closely the well-known tale in "The Arabian Nights." "L'Oca del Cairo" was presented by Mdle. Pauline Lewitzky (Isabella), Madame Sinico (Oretta), Signor Gardoni (Fabrizio), and Signor Gassier (Don Beltramo). The music, though all Mozart's, has been collected from various works in order to eke out the scanty material which the gifted composer left behind him. Moreover, the libretto is new, and the entire opera has been remodelled by M. Victor Wilder. The result is better than might have been expected. A well-told story, allied to music of the highest class, making together a charming example of the minor lyric drama, may well atone for such liberties as M. Wilder was bound to take with Mozart's MS. Without dwelling upon a performance of great merit generally speaking, we may observe that Mdle. Lewitzky made a satisfactory debut. She has an attractive appearance, a pure, fresh soprano voice, which she uses well, and an aptitude for stage work not often seen in one so young. If this Russian lady do not make her mark in operatic history we shall be very much deceived. "Robert le Diable" was produced last Saturday with a cast so strong that a large and brilliant house might have been confidently foretold. Mdle. Nilsson played Alice; Mdle. di Murska, Isabella; Signor Gardoni, Rambaldo; Signor Foli, Bertramo; and Signor Mengini, Roberto. This cast could not be surpassed anywhere; but the main interest was excited by Mdle. Nilsson's Alice, a part in which she had never been seen by her English admirers. The Swedish artist made a great and striking success, especially in the duet with Bertramo at the cross, and in the last act, where Roberto's good and evil angels contend for his possession. Mdle. di Murska's Isabella was a success hardly less great. She was twice recalled after the first act; and her rendering of "Robert, toi que j'aime" obtained a unanimous encore. For the excellence of the other parts the other artists' names must be a sufficient guarantee. On Monday the opera was "Marta," which served to introduce Madame Volpini as Lady Enrichetta. This artist possesses good looks, a light, flexible soprano voice, and a graceful manner—qualifications sufficient to account for the esteem in which she is held at St. Petersburg and elsewhere on the Continent. Her success was decided, the audience and artist being on the best terms from first to last. Madame Trebelli played Nancy with her customary perfection, Signor Bettini pleased much as Lionello, and Mr. Santley's Plumkett satisfied the most critical tastes. "Roberto" was given a second time on Tuesday, and a third time on Thursday. To-night the opera is "Faust," with Mdle. Nilsson as Marguerite.

Mr. Angus Fairbairn, the well-known Scottish vocalist (and poet too, by-the-by), being about to undertake a professional tour in America, gives a farewell concert, in the Store-street Music Hall, on the evening of May 30, under the patronage of the Earl and Countess of Mar; Thomas L. Kingston Oliphant, Esq., of Gask; and other distinguished personages. A capital selection of favourite Scottish songs is announced; the entertainment to be interspersed with literary notes and anecdotes, after the style made familiar to the public by the late Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Fairbairn, and others. The entertainer will be aided by several talented and popular vocalists, as well as by Mr. Ellis Roberts, the well-known Welsh harpist; and a novel feature of the performance will be a series of national dances executed in the "garb of old Gaul," by members of the society of "True Highlanders." An excellent evening's amusement may be confidently anticipated.

A NUMBER of what are termed the established shipwrights and other mechanics at Chatham Dockyard have consented to take the bonuses offered by the Admiralty to induce them to retire from the service, and several have left the dockyard on the terms laid down. The rate of gratuity granted by the Admiralty is one month's pay for every year of service in the dockyard which they have completed. The announcement that the Admiralty have ordered a further discharge of the workmen at Chatham Dockyard is not correct.

DEATHS BY DROWNING.—A sad accident has occurred on the Wye, near Monmouth. A party of militia bandsmen went out for a sail, when the boat capsized. Two men were drowned, and the others saved themselves by swimming. One of the deceased had not long returned from a voyage almost round the world, and had passed through many perils, to meet his death by an accident almost within sight of his father's house. He was son of one of the non-commissioned officers of the staff. Another melancholy case of drowning has taken place at the other extremity of the kingdom. The daughter of the Provost of the Fiscal of Argyllshire went with a servant to bathe in the sea not far from her father's house. Having got out of her depth, the servant screamed for assistance; but, although several persons rushed into the water, they could not reach her, and she perished in their sight.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO.—The quantity of tobacco paying duty for consumption in the United Kingdom increases year by year. In 1841 it was a little over 23,000,000 lb.; in 1851 it approached 28,000,000 lb., being 1 lb. per head of the population; in 1861 it exceeded 35,000,000 lb., being 1 lb. 34 oz. per head; in 1866 it reached 40,995,161 lb., being 1 lb. 54 oz. per head; in 1867 it was 41,055,512 lb., no greater quantity per head than in 1866; in 1868 it was 41,280,001 lb., about the same quantity per head as in 1866. The increase since 1866 has not been more than in the ratio of the increase of population. The principal of the laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department suggests that this may be regarded as evidence that the practice of smoking received a check by the commercial depression which has prevailed throughout the country for the last three or four years. The (as yet unverified) accounts for 1869 show an increase over 1868 of 440,000 lb., or nearly double the year's increase of population.

THE POPE'S INFALLIBILITY.—The printed scheme of the dogma of infallibility has been distributed. It contains five canons:—"1. If any one should say that the episcopal chair of the Roman Church is not the true and real infallible chair of Blessed Peter, or that it has not been divinely chosen by God as the most solid, indefectible, and incorruptible rock of the whole Christian Church, let him be anathema. 2. If any one should say that there exists in the world another infallible chair of the truth of the gospel of Christ our Lord, distinct and separate from the chair of Blessed Peter, let him be anathema. 3. If any one should deny that the divine magistrature of the chair of Blessed Peter is necessary to the true way of eternal salvation for all men, whether faithful or faithful, whether laymen or Bishops, let him be anathema. 4. If any one should say that each Roman Pontiff, legitimately elected in the name of Divine right the successor of Blessed Peter, even in the gift of the infallibility of magistrature, and should deny to any one of them the prerogative of infallibility for teaching the Church the word of God pure from all corruption and error, let him be anathema. 5. If any one should say that general councils are established by God in the Church as a power of feeding the Divine flock in the word of faith superior to the Roman Pontiff, or equal to him, or necessary by Divine institution in order that the magistrature of the Roman Bishop should be preserved infallible, let him be anathema."

THE THEATRICAL FUND DINNER.

The Prince of Wales presided, on Monday night, at the annual dinner of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, in St. James's Hall. The Prince, in returning thanks for the toast of his health and that of the Princess, which was proposed by the Duke of Sutherland, said that not only had the Princess and himself derived considerable amusement from what they had witnessed at the theatres, but they had given their patronage to the drama because it was their wish to encourage a noble profession. With the toast of the evening his Royal Highness associated the name of Mr. Buckstone, whom, he said, he had known personally ever since his childhood, and at whose drollery and humour he had repeatedly laughed and roared.

Mr. Buckstone, in responding to the toast, remarked that the Prince of Wales's taste for the drama might in some measure be attributed to his early introduction to dramatic art at Windsor Castle, and added that with the deeply-deplored loss of the Princess Consort the English drama was deprived of one of its best friends and supporters, as the encouragement given from such a quarter silenced the ignorant and intolerant, who are opposed to all rational and instructive comment. Mr. Buckstone said it had been remarked that in the twenty-four theatres open in London on Shakespeare's birthday not one of his plays was represented at any of them, and that music-hall tunes and nigger broad-downs were preferred to any of his immortal works. This, he thought, might be attributed to the multiplicity of theatres now allowed to be erected in almost every street, where the means of amusement are in the ascendant. A short time since a managerial authority informed us that Shakespeare means ruin and bankruptcy. It was not always so. He (Mr. Buckstone) remembered Mr. Charles Kemble once saying to him, "Mr. Buckstone, when I was at Covent Garden Theatre with my brother John and my sister Sarah, and we could not procure attractive novelty, we always put up Schackspere"—so he pronounced the name—"and Schackspere always 'pull'd us through.'"

Mr. Dion Boucicault took a different view, and, in responding to the toast of "The Drama," defended the drama of the period from the charges which had of late been brought against it. Every period, he said, had its drama—he meant that kind of drama that offered to the people the age and body of the time. Was it not reasonable that as the times changed the drama should change also? Did they find the leading articles of the newspapers of the present day of the same quality as those written in former times by Addison, Steele, and Goldsmith? No; they found simply the literature of the period—a very good, useful literature. When he turned to the Royal Academy he did not find pictures like those painted by Reynolds, Hogarth, and Gainsborough; but he found domestic and other subjects illustrative of the taste of the period. The age was utilitarian. There was a time when the drama was chiefly patronised by the wealthy classes, and when the poorer classes only resorted to it on very exceptional occasions. Now it was almost their sole recreation. If at present their taste was low, let them not be impatient with them. Let their faculties be improved as fast as possible.

The subscriptions amounted to upwards of £700, including £100 from her Majesty, £100 from the Royal Chairman, and £50 from the Nawab Nizam of Bengal.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION AND THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—The Congregational Union have adopted the following resolution on the subject of education:—"That this assembly, cherishing a strong confidence in the attachment of her Majesty's Government to the principles of religious equality, recognises in their measure for the advancement of primary education an anxious desire to respect the conscientious convictions of all classes of the people, as shown especially in the proposal to abolish denominational inspection, to apply a conscience clause to all schools in which religious instruction is given, and to admit undenominational schools to the enjoyment of Government grants; but at the same time is compelled to express a decided conviction that the conscience clause as at present framed will prove inadequate; that the liberty given to inspectors in certain specified circumstances to inquire into the religious teaching given in Government schools is inconsistent with the principles of the measure; and that the power intrusted to the local boards to determine the religious character of the schools they establish, and to aid denominational schools already existing out of the rates, is open to very serious objection. The assembly has learned with great satisfaction that the Government are willing to reconsider the provisions of the bill, and hopes that they will adopt and carry out such amendments as will secure a satisfactory settlement of the question."

DISGRACEFUL OUTRAGE AT OXFORD.—Astonishment, mingled at first with incredulity, is the feeling with which a story that comes from Oxford has been received by the public, and especially by University men. The practical jokes of undergraduates are sufficiently notorious, and have at times verged on sacrilege and misdemeanour, but this exceeds anything that lingers in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. It must go forth to the world that the most brutal and senseless act of Vandalism that has disgraced our time has been committed by members of the great foundation of Christ Church, young men belonging to the higher classes of England, brought up in the midst of the most refined civilisation, and receiving the most costly education that the country can provide. The account of the matter is that on the night of Tuesday in last week the Library of Christ Church was entered, and several busts, together with a marble statue of Venus, of great value, carried off by certain undergraduates. In the course of the night a pile was made of faggots and mats, the sculptures were put upon it, the whole set on fire, and the works of art totally destroyed. There has been as yet no official statement concerning the outrage and its perpetrators; but of course the facts are tolerably well known in Undergraduate circles. The report is that two distinct sets of men were engaged in the business. The one set of the statues out of the Library and stuck them up about Peckwater (one of the principal Quadrangles), as a joke. The other set found them in Peckwater, took them down, made the bonfire, and destroyed them. Between the two sets, the House has lost a fine bust of the late Dean Gaisford, by Woolner, and other works of the greatest value. Truth is stranger than fiction, even on a subject which has so much exercised the invention of novelists as University life. Certainly no writer would ever venture to describe the "fast man" of a college as wilfully destroying the choicest works of art which he possesses. Even the imaginative author of "Formosa" might shrink from such a stretch of the license of fiction as conveying something too monstrous to be accepted by a gallery of cockneys. The thing, however, is only too true; it is the scandal of the hour, and the governing body at Christ Church is engaged in investigation and deliberating on punishment.

A NEW "COUNTERBLAST" TO TOBACCO.—In their annual report, the Anti-Tobacco Society, as we learn from a newspaper, state that smoking, as a rule, "makes men impervious to the truths of religion." We should not think of denying this assertion, made by gentlemen who have studied the question; but we should greatly like to obtain further information. Are all kinds of smoking equally destructive to faith? Might a person retain some elements of Christianity if indulging in only a daily cigarette? Does a quiet after-dinner pipe always lead to atheism; could a hookah and true religion be in any way combined? Again, are all kinds of tobacco equally bad? Is there no such thing as orthodox tobacco, grown perhaps on Presbyterian soil, and tended by a gardener who knows the Shorter Catechism? We admit the force of the facts that point to the radical disagreement between pure Protestantism and good cigars; it is only in Popish lands that smoking is all but universal, while in the country most Popish of all—Spain—the vice has extended to women. Indeed, the greatest smokers of the world are Turks, who are not even Christians. But, while we admit these facts, we wish that the society would explain the modus operandi. How is it that cigars affect faith, and that pipes sap modus operandi? It is bad enough to have what some people call the Protestant religion? It is bad enough to have Jesuits poisoning our minds; but, if every cigar is a kind of inanimate Monsignore Catesby, gradually insinuating Popery into the thoughts, then England must look sharply to herself. For the rising generation are advancing so fast in smoking that babies will soon be warned on making them, and no nurserymaid will be engaged unless she knows how to make them. In the "Arabian Nights" a cunning doctor sends some medicines through the frame by making the patient use, in playing a game, a "bat" with a medicated handle. Could not Mr. Whalley take the hint, and send Protestant texts through the land wrapped round Protestant cigarettes? One thing is curious in connection with this counterblast of the society: the members perhaps forgot to state that in London and Rome—centres of rival creeds—it is not held right for ecclesiastics to smoke publicly. An Archbishop of Canterbury with a cigar would be almost heretical; and though, during the present Council, the rule has been relaxed, in consideration for the presence of outlandish ecclesiastics, it has always been considered contrary to etiquette for dignitaries of the Church to smoke in the streets of Rome. This fact may teach the members of the society that some people may be great foes to smoke, and still "impervious" to "the truths of religion," as contained in the Thirty-nine Articles. But, if high priests don't smoke at Rome or elsewhere, they take snuff, which is the same thing in another sense. —*Telegraph.*

HORRIBLE MURDERS IN CHELSEA.

A HORRIBLE discovery has been made at No. 15, Paulton-square, Chelsea. A carman named Piper had been hired by one Miller, a plasterer, to remove some furniture. On the carman proceeding to move a box, which was very heavy, some blood trickled through, and excited his suspicions. When the box was opened, it was found to contain the body of the housekeeper of the Rev. Mr. Huelin, a woman named Ann Boss, about forty years of age. A cord had been drawn tightly round the neck, and it was evident that the poor woman's death was caused by strangulation. Miller, who has been taken into custody, attempted to poison himself, but his design was frustrated by the prompt administration of an emetic. Suspicion subsequently arose that the master as well as the servant had been murdered, and, on a search being made in a house belonging to him at 24, Wellington-square, where Miller had been at work, the body of Mr. Huelin was found in a drain which had been dug by Miller's orders. Last Saturday afternoon Miller was brought up for examination at the Westminster Police Court. Amongst the witnesses was a man named Smith, who proved the utterance of a wish by the prisoner to "settle" Mr. Huelin, and to possess himself of his money. The prisoner was again brought up on Monday, and, after a lengthened investigation, the case as regards the murder of Mrs. Boss was completed, and Miller was committed for trial as the murderer. Plunder appears to have been the motive to the crime, as, besides some money, Miller possessed himself of the title-deeds to property, and the will of Mr. Huelin is said also to have disappeared. Miller is well known in the neighbourhood; but he had shaved off his whiskers, dyed his hair and moustache, and otherwise disguised himself in order to carry the project he is supposed to have conceived of personating a nephew of the deceased gentleman in order to secure possession of his property. The occurrence has created a profound sensation. The jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of the death of the Rev. Elias Huelin, on Wednesday, returned a verdict of "Willful murder" against Walter Miller, adding an expression of opinion that the prompt action of the witness Piper ought to be recognised by the authorities. The remains of Mr. Huelin and those of his housekeeper were, on Wednesday, interred in adjoining graves in Brompton Cemetery.

POLICE.

CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY.—At the Mansion House, on Monday, the charge of conspiracy against seven of the directors of the Monarch Insurance Company was again proceeded with. Mr. Maynard, the official liquidator, stated that little or nothing was paid on the allotment of shares to the different directors, and that on Dec. 31 last the total amount of capital paid up was only £818. The sum paid to the members of the board for their services was £717, and the charges for preliminary expenses had been £2575. The profit represented to have been made last year was £5000, but the amount was fictitious. The further hearing was adjourned to Tuesday, on which day the case was proceeded with, and again adjourned.

CAPTURE OF SUPPOSED FENIANS.—At Marylebone Police Court, on Monday, John Wilson, forty-three, gun and pistol maker, of Thomas-street, Queen-street, Birmingham; and Michael Davit, twenty-five, who has lost his right hand, and said at the police-station his address was Wilkinson-street, Haslingdon, Manchester, were brought up before Mr. D'Eyncourt, charged, the former with having fifty six-chambered revolvers in his possession; the latter, with loitering in and about the Great Western station, Paddington, as it was supposed, for some unlawful purpose. Detective Superintendent Clark was at the railway-station, on Saturday evening, with other officers, on the watch for the prisoners; and as soon as Wilson, whose only luggage was a parcel of revolvers, stepped from a third-class carriage attached to the train arriving at 10.45 p.m., he was arrested by Detective Sergeant Foley. He was taken to the police-station and searched. In his pocket was a slip of paper on which was written, "Mr. Matthews, 35, Milman-street, Guildford-street, London, W.C." a house at which Davit has been lodging. Detective Sergeant Campbell apprehended Davit, who made no resistance. He also was searched, and in his possession £150 in notes and two or three sovereigns were found, as well as a couple of keys, one of which fitted a carpet-bag containing a hammer, a small "jenny," screwdrivers, &c., found at the house in Milman-street. Mr. D'Eyncourt said the evidence to connect the prisoners was very slight. Superintendent Williamson, of the Scotland-yard detective force, asked for a remand in order that further evidence might be obtained. From information in his possession, he believed that Davit, under various names, had for some months been travelling in the north of England, for the purpose of buying arms for the Fenians. Mr. D'Eyncourt remanded the prisoners until Friday, consenting to accept bail in the sum of £100 for each. The prisoners, who said they had no friends in London, were removed to the House of Detention. Davit asked if the large sum of money taken from him might be given up, to enable him to provide for his defence. Superintendent Williamson objected. Mr. D'Eyncourt said the three sovereigns found on Davit might be restored to him.

A SAD MISADVENTURE.—Charles Thomson, 17, a brass finisher, was charged, at Westminster, on Monday, with the manslaughter of his step-son, George Reece, at 42, Medway-street, Westminster. Mr. W. D. Smyth defended. Margaret Reece, the mother of the prisoner, said: On last Saturday week, at eight in the evening, my son had come home from his work, at Messrs. Suggs's, gas apparatus manufacturers, and paid me the money for his keep. My son came out of the bed-room into the sitting-room, and said he was going out; and my husband said, "Not if you are going to ride a velocipede," and further asked him if he had paid something towards a new suit of clothes. I said, no, he had not paid the money yet. My husband then said, "You don't go out of this room until you pay it," and crossed the room towards him. He hit the boy with his fist in his eye twice, and

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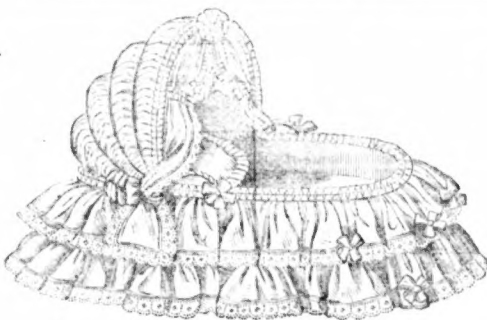
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blackened his eye. I got between them, and the father turned to walk to the other side of the room. As he did so the boy, who was in a fearful temper, took up the saltcellar produced and threw it at him. He turned round and received the blow full on the forehead, and fell down. They took him to Dr. Pearce, where he waited a long time, and lost a quantity of blood, and then to the hospital, where he died last Saturday evening at seven o'clock. I did not actually see the thing thrown, but saw the blow, and on returning from the hospital picked up the saltcellar. Cross-examined: "My husband was a bad-tempered man, and used very bad language to the lad; he called him a bastard and a —; the boy was born in wedlock. The prisoner is a good lad, and always works well; and by his father's death I am left with four helpless little children, the youngest six months old, and one of the others a cripple; if anything is done to the boy I must starve, for he is my only support." By Mr. Selig: "After he had struck the blow he said, 'Father, I did not mean to hurt you;' and the father shook hands with him, and was sorry for what he said. The boy is only an apprentice." Mr. Selig let the prisoner go till to-day (Saturday), on the mother's promise to bring him there again; he also gave the lad a supersedeas to stay any arrest the Coroner might order.

A HINT TO PIGEON FANCIERS.—At Highgate, on Monday, James Calver, a labourer, living in the Finchley-road, was summoned for poisoning three pigeons belonging to a neighbour. The defendant said he had to keep a wife and five children on 16s. per week. His cabbages and lettuce had been spoiled by the pigeons; and he lately planted some peas, but the pigeons, rats, and mice ate the best part of them. He placed some paste that he bought of a chemist on the ground, and it killed the pigeons. He had complained to the complainant about the birds, but he took no notice of his complaint. Colonel Croll said the summons must be dismissed; the magistrates thought the man was justified in putting down poison to prevent the destruction of his property.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—James Fountaine, who is charged with attempting to murder Henrietta Corn, at Hoxton, was brought up, on Tuesday, at the Worship-street Police Court, for final examination. They had lived together as man and wife for ten years, and in consequence of the ill-treatment she received, the woman left the prisoner. On April 14, between ten and eleven at night, they met at a public-house, when he entreated her to return to him. She refused, and afterwards, when in the street, he put his arm round her neck and began to cut her throat with a razor. Her screams brought a policeman to her rescue, and then the prisoner began to cut his own throat. The wounds of both were serious, and Mrs. Corn had only just been able to leave the hospital. The prisoner was committed for trial.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MAY 13.

BANKRUPTS.—H. BUTLER, Regent-street, clerk—W. DEDMAN, Norwood, builder—J. HEARDER, High Holborn, shoemaker—S. W. ATKINSON, Bradford, packer—J. COATES, Leeds, cloth merchant—W. CAWOOD, Scarborough, builder—E. T. COLE, Bristol, grocer—G. E. COX, Liverpool, dealer in fancy goods—W. CUREN, Bolton, picture-dealer—J. DOWNS, Mares, blacksmith—W. W. ELLISON, Norwich, jeweller—E. HOWARD, Fenton, farmer—G. H. TAYLOR, Huddersfield, cotton-waste dealer—T. H. TILGNER, Leeds, cloth manufacturer—A. R. THOMPSON, Hordam, miller—D. WARD, Manchester, bootmaker.

TUESDAY, MAY 17.
BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—G. L. HALL, Maida-vale, artist—J. KENWORTHY, Mottram in Longdendale, cotton-spinner.
BANKRUPTS.—J. P. BARAGWANATH, Upper Thames-street, engineer—H. B. BARNETT, Strand, clerk—A. BROOKS, Cornhill, Captain—T. HARRADINE, Birchin-lane, discount broker—E. R. YOUNG, Monks Coppenhall, boiler-maker—J. RUTLER, Salisbury—W. DEACON, Fleckney, baker—J. DODD, jun., Winsford, grocer—J. GLEAVE, Widnes, ship-builder—J. JEPSON, Hulme, warehouseman—G. JOHNSON, Colbridge, grocer—R. LEVITT, Manchester, yarn agent—G. MADDLSON, Swaffham, grocer—T. MATTHEWS, Southall-green, schoolmaster—J. MATTHEWS, Twickenham, draper—E. NAPPER, Newport, Monmouthshire, confectioner—T. K. EDLEY, Hanley, clothier—W. PENNINGTON, Runcorn, builder—F. ROPER, Bradford, commission merchant—T. THOMAS, Yatrad, builder.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. MCGREGOR, Glasgow, coach-builder—J. DICKSON, Gala-hills, builder—J. GREIG, Drumbovie—J. M'HEILSON, Glasgow, dairyman.

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Also
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